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ACTRESS DEBORAH ANN WOLL HAS FUN WITH HER CHARACTER'S STYLE TRANSFORMATION FROM TEENAGE GIRL TO PUNK VAMPIRE PAGE 30

Another excuse to skip school

High school seniors tend to be in worse shape than younger peers: Study PAGE 9

Serena says sorry after rape remarks

Tennis star blamed teen victim for infamous Steubenville assault PAGE 10

TTC boss mulls car ban on King St.

Path would be cleared for downtown streetcars during morning rush PAGE 3

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Blair could say more about Ford links to gang sweep: Experts

Mayor Rob Ford and police Chief Bill Blair at the unveiling of the Sgt. Ryan Russell Parkette in July 2011. Criminal lawyers believe Blair could disclose more information about Ford's alleged activities after recent gang raids. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Crack scandal. City's top cop has maintained that the law compels him to keep quiet

Despite repeated refusals to answer questions about Mayor Rob Ford's involvement in a sweeping investigation into the gun and drug trade in Toronto, there is plenty Chief Bill Blair can say without breaking the law, legal experts told the Torstar News Service.

The chief has been pressed to respond to questions about the existence of a video that appears to show Ford smoking crack cocaine. He has been grilled on whether there is a criminal investigation into the mayor's office.

Blair has steadfastly refused to clear the mayor, saying the law won't allow him to disclose such information despite the public interest.

"The law is absolutely crystal clear on this about precisely what the legal requirement and the constraints on police are," he said at a June 13 press conference following a pre-dawn raid. "I'm going to follow the law."

Two criminal lawyers said Blair could legally answer a wide variety of questions about the mayor.

"I don't know why the chief wouldn't clear the mayor if he is not part of any investigation," said criminal lawyer Daniel Brown.

Toronto police spokesperson Mark Pugash explained Blair's position: "We will not do anything that has even the slightest possibility of damaging a prosecution that's before the courts."

Last week, police orchestrated a raid and laid 224 charges against 44 people from Toronto, Windsor, Edmonton and Detroit, targeting an alleged guns and drug ring operated by the Dixon City Bloods gang.

Sources have told Torstar that police became aware of the existence of the video during surveillance for the investigation, dubbed Project Traveller.

Pugash said police disclose "things," not evidence. For example, he said, guns and drugs are things. Who bought and sold those "things" is evidence. A video of the mayor allegedly smoking crack is evidence, not a "thing," because individuals in it can be identified.

Criminal-appeals lawyer Mark Halfyard said the video wouldn't affect any court case.

"When you have a video, it is not the type of soft evidence like evidence gathered from eyewitnesses' accounts ... that might later distort the evidence of other potential witnesses if the information is given out," he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 6

Quoted

"There's nothing in law that prevents him from talking about the mayor's potential involvement in this case and talking about — or releasing — the video. It's a choice and they're choosing not to discuss it."

Criminal lawyer Daniel Brown on police Chief Bill Blair

Ford prefers garbage incineration

Mayor Rob Ford supports burning garbage to create energy.

- Ford made a special appearance at the public works committee Wednesday. At a subsequent news conference, Ford revealed he wants to see the city burn its garbage as an alternative to trucking it to the city's Green Lane landfill near London.
- Ford said burning trash to create energy can be a money-maker.
- The committee voted to hire consultants to examine methods to get rid of garbage. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Wiretap info protected

Where experts agree with Chief Bill Blair is on the law around the disclosure of wiretap information.

- Last week, Blair was asked to confirm or deny a report that police had wiretapped Ford's phone. "The Criminal Code makes it an offence to disclose such information," he said.
- Blair could face up to two years in jail for disclosing the contents or even existence of wiretaps until they're disclosed in court, according to section 193.1 of the Criminal Code.

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Supreme Court decision

Good news for Ford today?

Mayor Rob Ford will learn Thursday morning if he is again in danger of losing his job. The Supreme Court of Canada will announce at 9:45 a.m. whether it has accepted or rejected an application to hear a final appeal of the conflict-of-interest case that nearly forced him from office late last year. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Philanthropist

The maze as it appeared in 2003.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Centre Island maze could amaze again

Until it was dug up in 2011, Centre Island's cedar-hedge labyrinth entertained children and adults for nearly half a century. Now a Calgary businessman is determined to get it back — and he's offered the city $200,000 to rebuild it.

William Meany, 43, first saw the maze as a seven-year-old, but the Mississauga native was stunned last July when he discovered it was gone.

He immediately got on the phone to city hall. On Monday morning, the parks committee will decide whether to pass the offer to council for final approval.

"We're going to get the maze," Meany said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sweet return as tall ships arrive for Redpath festival

The St. Lawrence II sails in Toronto on Wednesday for the Tall Ships 1812 tour at the Redpath Waterfront Festival. The ships are in Toronto from June 20 to 23. The city will be the launch port of the Tall Ships Challenge Great Lakes 2013, a race series through all of the Great Lakes, starting June 30 and ending in Chicago on Aug. 29.

CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

King Street car ban could ease rush hour: TTC boss

Transit corridors. Move would keep streetcars moving on King and Queen

It's time to look at taking cars off downtown King Street — and maybe Queen as well — at least in the morning rush, TTC CEO Andy Byford says.

He says Toronto needs bold solutions for the bunching and short-turns that plague downtown streetcars, particularly those on King and Queen, where there are long gaps in service before two or three cars show up at once.

The idea comes as the TTC embarks on the launch of its new fleet of 204 Bombardier streetcars next year, along with the provincial Presto fare card.

Coun. Karen Stintz, who chairs the TTC board, will move a motion there on Monday asking staff to assess the feasibility of trying a transit corridor on King as a pilot during the 2015 Pan Am Games.

The time has come for radical solutions if those cars are going to move unimpeded through the downtown, Byford said. The TTC would have to work with the city to assess the impact on traffic and business.

"We need to get serious about enabling surface transit to move freely at the busiest times, in addition to introducing larger vehicles," he said.

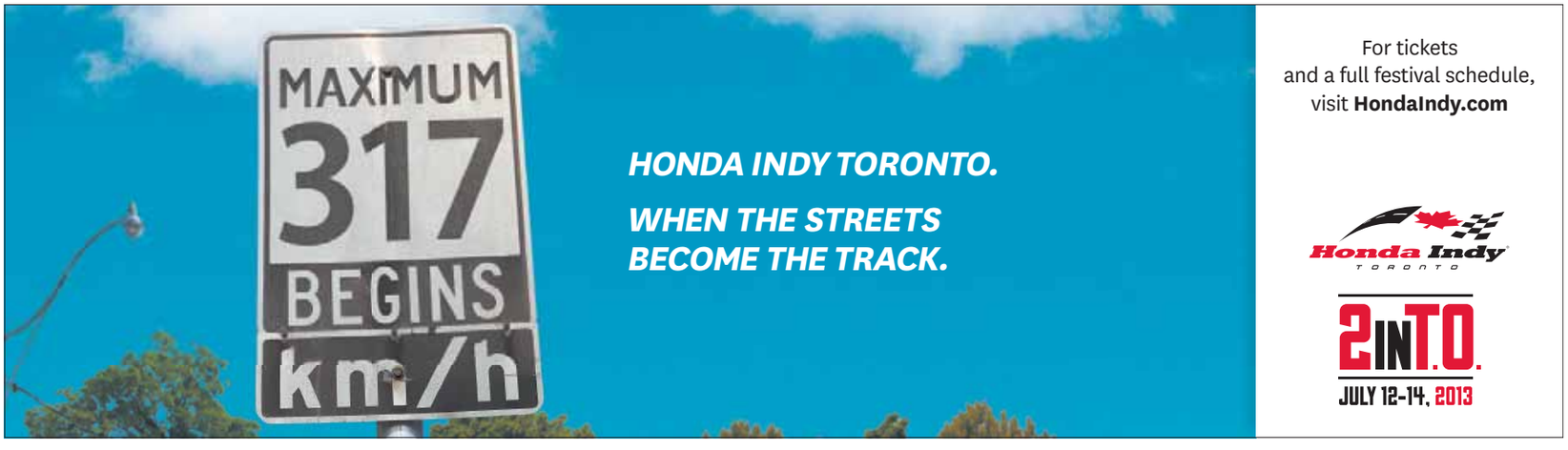
"If you really want to crack the age-old problem of streetcars running in mixed traffic, coming up against people trying to do left turns or other blockages, is it not time to revisit — just as a study — the political and public appetite for a 7 a.m. until 9 a.m. transit-only-in-one-direction road, and displace the traffic elsewhere?" Byford said.

"We've got to at least reopen that debate," he said, adding that some city councillors have already expressed interest.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

City needs to get moving

"We need to get serious about enabling surface transit to move freely at the busiest times, in addition to introducing larger vehicles."
TTC CEO Andy Byford



No more life in plastic-bag debate. City is done with squabble, Ford says

Toronto has no further interest in either charging a fee for plastic shopping bags or banning them, says Mayor Rob Ford.

The mayor took the unusual step of appearing before the public works and infrastructure committee to add his vote to ending the bag debate.

A staff report that discussed a new fee or ban was received for information in a 5-2 vote.

That means councillors plan no further action and will leave things as they are, where retailers can charge for a plastic shopping bag if they wish and people are urged to reuse the bags and then put them in the blue bin for recycling. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mayor Rob Ford
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Brazen backyard shooting

Suspects captured on video, police say

Toronto police say three men suspected in the death of a 38-year-old father who was gunned down in his backyard drove by the man's house to make sure he was there in the moments before the killing.

Surendra Vaithilingam was pronounced dead at the scene at his east-end home on May 29.

Det.-Sgt. Justin Vanderheyden says he believes the suspects "made a loop, parked the car nearby and committed this murder." THE CANADIAN PRESS

A total gain in the butt

T.O. guy's never bin-shy. TerraCycle specializes in hard-to-recycle goods like cigarette butts

Tom Szaky confesses that he loves going through a garbage bin, any bin.

He's not shy about it, because by rifling through trash, Szaky can see the potential for his company, TerraCycle Inc., which is dedicated to turning traditionally unrecyclable items into other new goods.

"What's in a garbage can, it's our opportunity," said Szaky, 31, who started his company in 2001 in a dorm room at Princeton University. "It's pretty bewildering. About 80 per cent of consumer objects are not recyclable."

That is, until he got into the business.

Szaky, who emigrated from Hungary to Toronto with his parents when he was seven, dropped out of the Ivy League school in his third semester to work full-time on the business that is projected to generate revenues of $18 million US this year.

Szaky was in Toronto on Wednesday to promote a deal with Imperial Tobacco Canada, which is helping to fund TerraCycle's efforts to turn old cigarette waste into plastic materials. On Wednesday, they announced a target of collecting and recycling 10 million cigarette filters in 2013. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tom Szaky, right, founder and CEO of TerraCycle, struts his butts to Eric Gagnon of Imperial Tobacco Canada Wednesday in Toronto. With help from collectors across Canada, TerraCycle gathered more than five million cigarette butts in the first year of its Cigarette Waste Brigade program. CONTRIBUTED

From the waste up

- **The company, which operates in 23 countries, including a Toronto office, depends on ordinary citizens and big business for its success.**
- **The idea is relatively simple.** TerraCycle turns items such as candy wrappers, yogurt containers, and sandwich bags into products like backpacks.
- **It asks individuals, groups, schools or businesses to collect the items.** In return, the volunteers are paid, with the money going to a charity or non-profit of their choice.
- **The collected goods are sent to a processing plant to be turned into other goods** — with part of the costs borne by major sponsors, which include giant companies like Kraft Foods, Nestlé, Kimberly-Clark and Frito-Lay.

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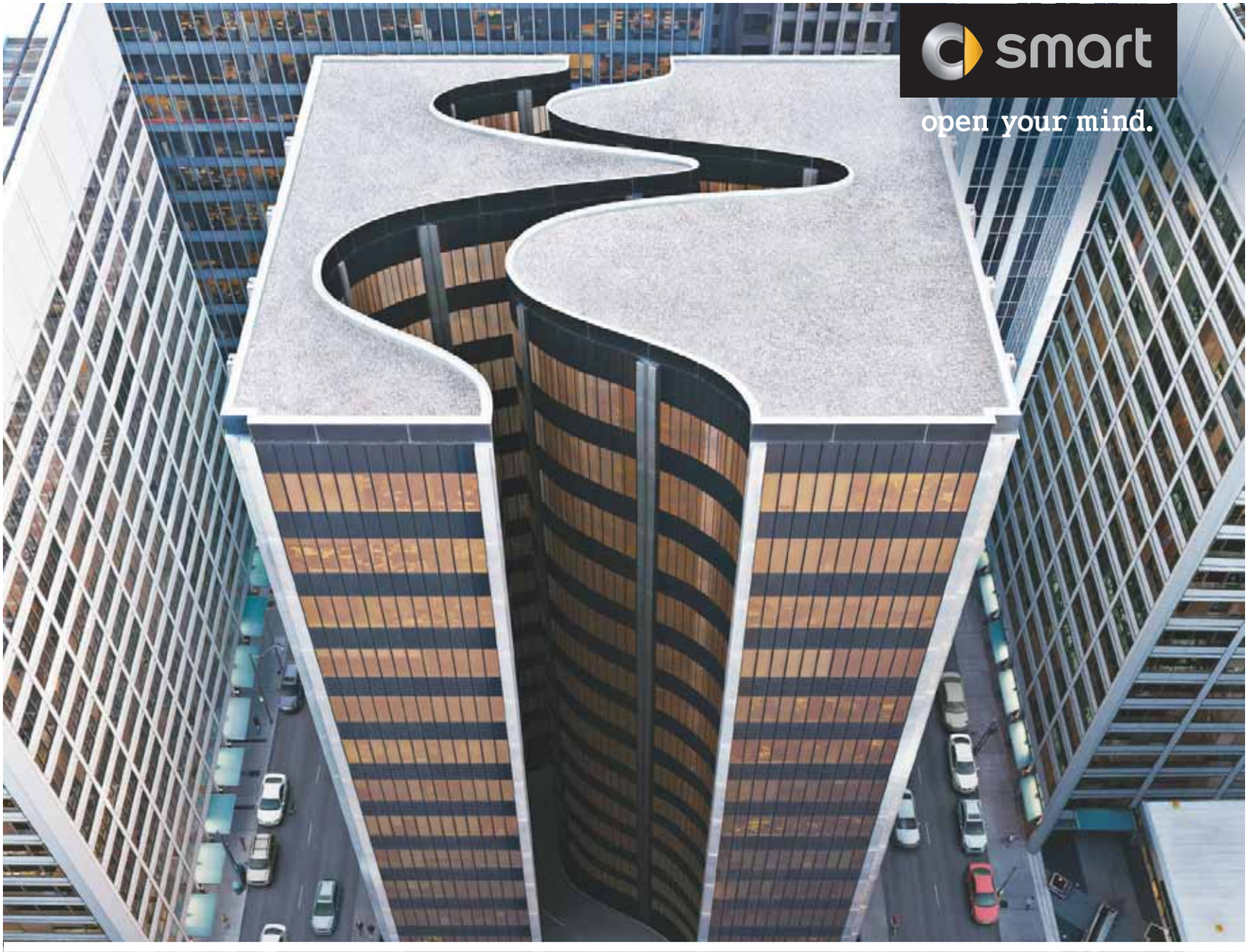

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Unravelling Project Traveller

Dixon City Bloods. Most alleged gang members face criminal charges; any evidence involving Mayor Ford could be made public

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair has deflected all questions about Mayor Rob Ford and the alleged crack video by saying it's his duty to protect the evidence in the Project Traveller gang investigation — and not disclose anything until it goes to court.

If media reports are true and Project Traveller wiretaps caught people discussing a video of Ford smoking crack, or if police have recovered the alleged video in their investigation, that evidence will only come out in court if it is relevant to the prosecution, lawyers say.

Wiretaps are particularly useful and relevant in proving a "participating in the activities of a criminal organization" charge, says defence lawyer Craig Bottomley.

Waiting for answers

"I'm unable to answer your question without violating the terms of the law and the spirit of the law.... All of the evidence we have collected ... will be properly disclosed in a court of law."

Police Chief Bill Blair, on CBC's Metro Morning, when asked why he hasn't exonerated Mayor Rob Ford and his alleged involvement with Project Traveller

"They often contain devastating evidence," he said.

Most of the alleged Dixon City Bloods are facing one or more criminal organization charges. Some defendants are charged with trafficking cocaine on behalf of their gang, while others are charged in connection with numerous parts of the criminal organization — trafficking guns, coke, heroin and/or marijuana.

A criminal organization is the "gold prize for police," Bottomley said. The charge carries up to five years on top of any other criminal charges.

In order to prove a criminal investigation charge, the Crown must prove the size and purpose of the criminal organization — in this case the Dixon City Bloods — and must show the alleged activities were committed for the benefit of the criminal organization.

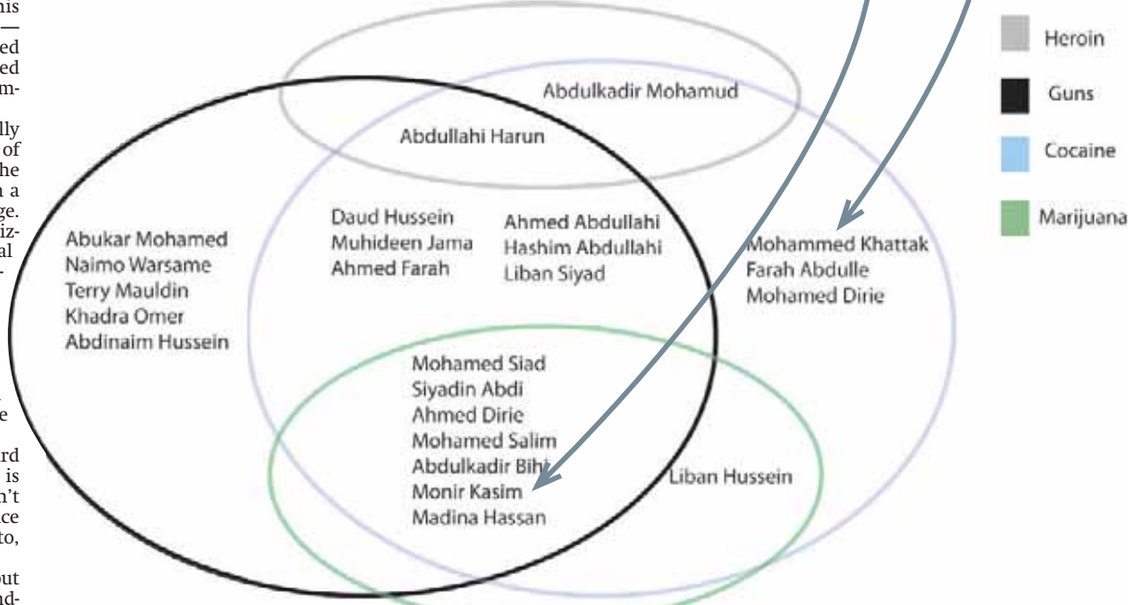
Bottomley successfully defended the president of the Toronto chapter of the Hells Angels, John Neal, on a criminal organization charge. He'd argued that the organization didn't have a criminal purpose, just some members who were criminals.

Bottomley said he's not sure if a Ford video would be relevant or not, but noted the defence lawyers and their client will get a disclosure of the evidence before it gets to court.

And in a straightforward guns and gangs case, there is no reason why they couldn't release Ford-related evidence publicly, if they chose to, Bottomley said.

"It may very well come out if there's a trial," said Windsor lawyer Frank Miller, who has represented some of the Project Traveller defendants in the past, including Abdulkadir Mohamud.

From left, Anthony Smith, Monir Kassim and Mohammed Khattak, pictured with Mayor Rob Ford, are allegedly linked to a street gang targeted in recent police raids. Smith, 21, was killed in a King Street nightclub shooting on March 28. Khattak, 19, was shot in the arm and back in the same incident. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



The Venn Diagram above is a representation of the criminal organization charges laid in the Project Traveller investigation. Police investigated the Dixon City Bloods, which they allege is based in Toronto's Little Mogadishu on Dixon Road. The people in the diagram are all charged with "participation in activities of a criminal organization." Each circle represents a different criminal activity they are alleged to be involved in. Some are facing more than one criminal organization charge and appear in more than one circle. They have not been convicted. At the request of the Toronto police, Metro has withheld publishing the names of five of the people included in these criminal organization charges who have not yet been publicly identified. JESSICA SMITH/METRO

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Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, right, walks with Bob Rae on Wednesday after a press conference on Parliament Hill during which Rae announced his resignation. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rae days over as ex-premier gives up politics

MP resigns. Bob Rae wants to focus on his role as chief negotiator for First Nations in province's north

Bob Rae, a fixture on Canada's political scene for more than three decades, is giving up his seat in the House of Commons to devote himself to work on behalf of First Nations in northern Ontario.

Rae said he is leaving politics so he can focus on his new role as chief negotiator for First Nations in talks with the province about development of the Ring of Fire mining development in northern Ontario.

"This is going to be a major undertaking," an emotional Rae told a surprise news conference Wednesday in the foyer of the House of Commons.

"It's clear to me that it will take a lot more time and it simply isn't possible to do both jobs at the same time."

The 64-year-old Rae's unexpected announcement caps a political career that has spanned 35 years and two parties. It came after he privately broke the news to the Liberal caucus in what he described as a difficult moment.

"I have a passion for my work as a negotiator and for First Nations," Rae said. "When you make a difficult choice, you show your emotions."

Rae began in politics as a New Democrat and later shifted to the federal Liberals, even seeking the party leadership at one point.

He was first elected to the Commons in a 1978 byelection, but moved to Ontario provincial politics four years later, when he became provincial NDP leader and later served as premier.

In 2006, having joined the Liberals, he unsuccessfully sought the party leadership, but won a seat in the Commons in 2008, becoming interim leader after Michael Ignatieff lost his seat in the 2011 election.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Parting words

"I have a lot of passion for Canadian politics. It's been a very difficult decision ... and quite an emotional one for me."

Bob Rae, on his resignation.

Rae days, from top: His resignation as MP Wednesday; as Ontario premier in 1990; as Ontario NDP leader in 1985. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Study. High school could be bad for your health

High school may improve students' minds, but it does the opposite for their bodies.

A new study from the University of Waterloo suggests Canadian students in Grade 12 are in worse health than their younger high-school peers.

The research, published in the latest issue of the journal BMC Public Health, found that by the time students reach senior year, they're at a significantly increased risk for chronic diseases such as diabetes and lung cancer.

It shows that over four years of high school, the number of smokers went up 170 per cent, binge drinking jumped 167 per cent and marijuana use rose by 124 per cent.

What's more, the vast majority of students — more than 89 per cent — didn't meet Health Canada's guidelines for minimum physical activity and barely seven per cent reported eating enough fruit and vegetables.

The study's co-author, Scott Leatherdale, says the fact that large proportions of graduating students fail to meet the most basic healthy living recommendations is cause for concern.

Having even one of the risk factors measured can increase the likelihood of disease, and by Grade 12, the average student shows three, he said.

Students in higher grades appear to be at the greatest risk, he added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

One Canadian study finds students in senior grades are at a higher risk for chronic diseases such as diabetes and lung cancer. ISTOCK IMAGES

Summer break

House adjourns early after bitter spring sitting

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has returned from his European trip but he won't have to endure another grilling in the House of Commons for a while.

All parties agreed late Tuesday night to end the most bitter spring sitting of Parliament since Harper's Conservatives came to power more than seven years ago. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Corruption charges

Montreal will get its new, new mayor Tuesday

Montreal will have its next interim mayor — the third mayor in less than a year — early next week.

The city clerk's office has announced a vote will be held during a special meeting of council next Tuesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Brazilian rioters wreak havoc in protest over poor services

Riot police aim their weapons at protesters gathering near Castelao stadium in Fortaleza, Brazil, on Wednesday. Protesters cut off the main access road to the stadium where Brazil played Mexico in the Confederations Cup on Wednesday afternoon. Scattered street demonstrations popped up around Brazil as protesters decried the low-quality public services they receive in exchange for high taxes and rising prices. Leaders in Brazil's two biggest cities said they have reversed an increase in bus and subway fares that ignited outrage across the nation. ANDRE PENNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serena Williams backtracks on rape comment

Unforced error. Tennis star reaches out to Steubenville victim after 'hurtful' remarks

Serena Williams is apologizing for a Rolling Stone article that quoted her blaming the 16-year-old rape victim in a high-profile case in Steubenville, Ohio.

"She shouldn't have put herself in that position," she is quoted as saying in the profile, in an upcoming edition.

She made the comments to the reporter after seeing coverage of the case flash on television while getting a manicure.

"They did something stupid, but I don't know. I'm not blaming the girl, but if you're a 16-year-old and you're drunk like that, your parents should teach you: Don't take drinks from other people. She's 16, why was she that drunk where she doesn't remember? It could have been much worse. She's lucky," Williams said.

Williams, ranked No. 1 in the world in women's tennis, said she was reaching out to the girl's family to apologize.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A week from Wimbledon

"I am deeply sorry for what was written in the Rolling Stone article. What was written — what I supposedly said — is insensitive and hurtful, and I by no means would say or insinuate that she was at all to blame." Serena Williams

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PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Southwest France. Floods close Catholic pilgrimage complex in Lourdes

Heavy floods in southwest France have forced the closure of the Catholic pilgrimage site in Lourdes and the evacuation of pilgrims from nearby hotels.

Muddy floodwaters swirled Wednesday in the grotto where nearly 6 million believers from around the world, many gravely ill, come every year seeking miracles and healing. It has been a major pilgrimage site since a French girl's vision of the Virgin Mary there in 1858.

Lourdes Mayor Jean-Pierre Artiganave said the pilgrimage complex in the foothills of the Pyrenees will not reopen until safety can be assured. A diocese spokesman said that wasn't likely before the end of the week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Un-bundling

Alaskans not so hot on weather

A heat wave hitting Alaska may not rival the blazing heat of Phoenix or Las Vegas, but to residents of the northernmost U.S. state, the days of hot weather feel like a stifling oven. With temperatures topping 26 C in Anchorage, and higher in other parts, people have been sweltering in a place where few have air conditioning. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Myanmar

Women jailed for inciting violence

A court in Myanmar has found two Muslim women guilty of sparking a recent outbreak of sectarian violence, one of them by bumping into a Buddhist novice monk. Myint Thein of the pro-government National Unity Party, who attended their trial, said Wednesday the two women were convicted of "insulting religion." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India flood deaths top 100

Indian men use a boat to cross a Tibetan market along the banks of the Yamuna River, in New Delhi, Wednesday. India's prime minister said that the death toll from flooding this week in the northern state of Uttrakhand had surpassed 100 and could rise substantially. The flooding has affected several states and the capital, New Delhi, where nearly 2,000 people have been evacuated to government-run camps on higher ground.

MANISH SWARUP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ashley Smith. Inmate's strangulations not always dangerous, inquest hears

Senior managers agreed that intervening every time a teen inmate tied a ligature around her neck was unnecessary because she was not always in immediate danger, an inquest into her death heard on Wednesday.

Michelle Bridgen, a middle manager at the Grand Valley Institution in Kitchener, Ont., said it was the warden and deputy warden who decided essentially that guards should intervene only if Ashley Smith risked imminent death.

"When she had a ligature, sometimes it was not tied tightly around her neck," Bridgen testified.

"Sometimes she would even tie it in a bow around her neck and put her fingers through it and say, 'See, it's not tight.'"

The choice became whether guards should frighten Smith by rushing into her segregation cell to retrieve the ligature or "empower" the inmate by allowing her to give it up without force, Bridgen said.

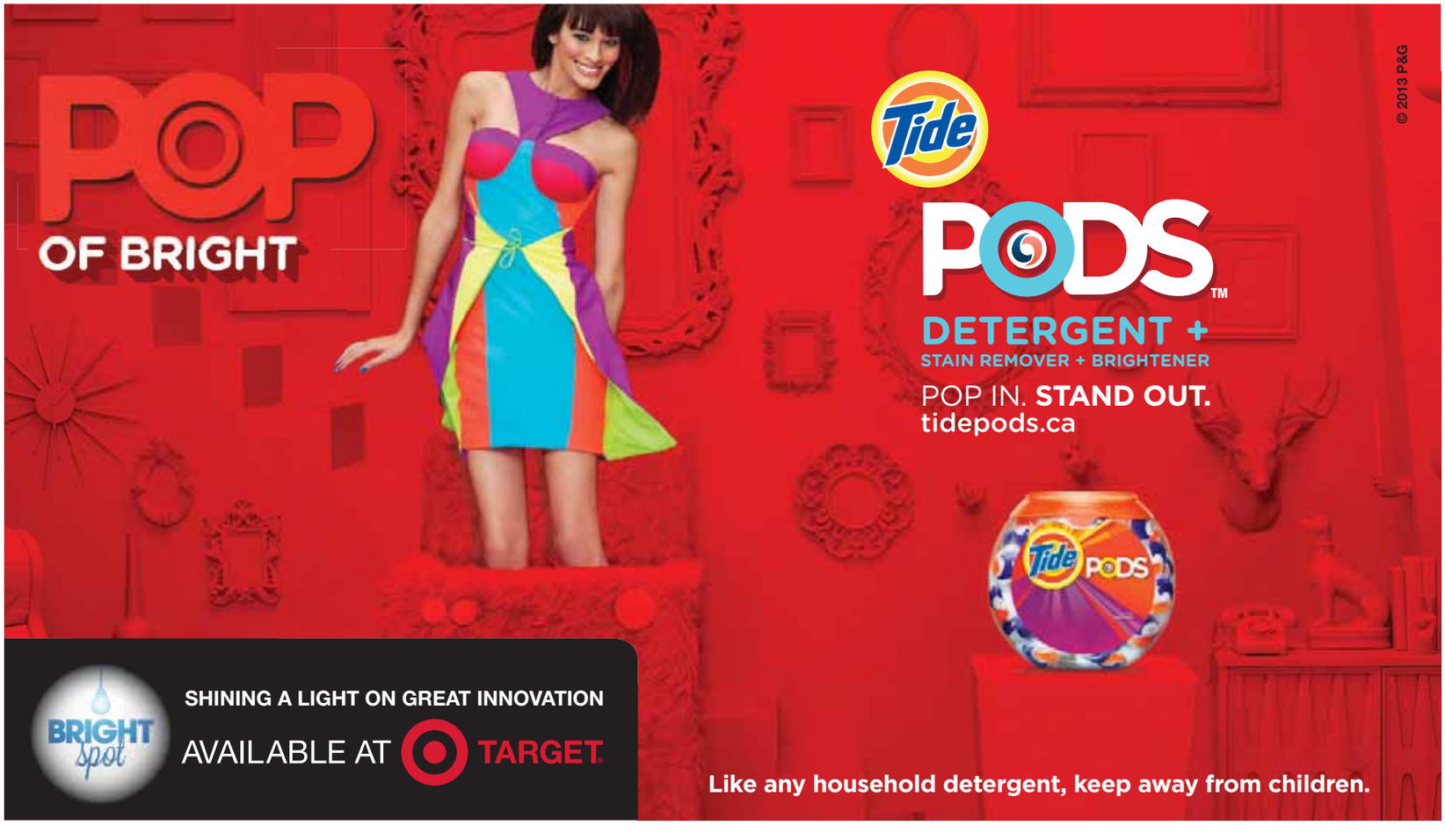
Still, the ligature tying never became part of the blueprint for how guards were to deal with Smith

The issue of what guards were ordered to do when Smith was seen to be strangling herself is one of the crucial questions at the inquest into her death.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michelle Bridgen, a correctional manager, is seen outside the Ashley Smith inquest in Toronto on Wednesday. Bridgen was suspended for 10 days for her role in Smith's death in October 2007.

COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS



ON YOUR MARK

METRO STAFFERS GETTING READY FOR A MARATHON

Five Metro writers are training for their first marathon and recording their experiences in the blog, Couch to 42K. From left, Takara Small, Hannah Zitner, Jessica Smith, Liz Brown and, lying down, Fernando Carneiro. Read it at metronews.ca/couchto42k.

DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

It takes hard work and determination to run a marathon but the greatest rewards come from the toughest challenges. Five gutsy Metro staffers are out of the gates and on the track to glory, training for the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon on Oct. 20.

MEET METRO'S RUNNING TEAM

Jessica Smith, 28, reporter/photographer
Hannah Zitner, 32, online editor
Fernando Carneiro, 36, national deputy editor
Liz Brown, 32, editor for movies/travel
Takara Small, 25, business columnist and online editor

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING THE SCOTIABANK TORONTO WATERFRONT MARATHON?

JS: I love a challenge. I'm a little scared and very excited.
HZ: Can't come up with a reason NOT to run it. If my father can do one at 60, I can do one now.
FC: It would be an accomplishment I can be proud of for the rest of my life. I have done half-marathons, but never a full.
LB: I've been saying for about five years I want to run a marathon. I guess it's time to do it.
TS: I've always wanted to run a marathon and thanks to Metro I can cross it off my bucket list sooner rather than later.

WHAT'S YOUR GOAL FOR THE RACE?

JS: To finish, jogging the whole way.
HZ: Live. And maybe break 3:45 without breaking my knees.
FC: To finish without walking.
LB: To finish in under four hours.
TS: To finish in one piece.

WHAT WILL MOTIVATE YOU TO FINISH THE MARATHON?

JS: My pride! And my fiancé at the finish line.
HZ: This article. Now that it's on the record in print and online, I'll have to keep my word to finish.
FC: The opportunity to cross off "running a marathon" from my life's to-do list.
LB: Envisioning a frosty pint of beer and a big pizza waiting for me at the end. Oh, and a few loops of Kanye West's Stronger.
TS: Running alongside my co-workers with friends waiting for me at the finish line. It's, hopefully, all the motivation I'll need.

For more information and to register, visit STWM.ca. Click "Training" for running programs and tips from The Running Room, the official training clinic partner of the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon. *– Jennifer Melo*

Syrians who fled violence find sweet taste of home in Jordan

A bowl of peaceful memories. Beloved Damascus ice-cream shop opens a branch in Amman, and both Syrians and Jordanians are flocking to it

For Syrians, no visit to Damascus' Old City is complete without a stop at a more than century-old ice-cream parlour, where you can watch them make their distinctive dessert by pounding it into shape with mallets, then enjoy a bowl of it sprinkled with pistachios.

Now, those who fled their country's bloody civil war can savour a taste from back home. Damascus' most famed ice-cream shop, Bakdash, has opened a branch in the Jordanian capital Amman, and both Jordanians and Syrians living there are flocking to it.

With its mix of milk, gum arabic and sahlab — a flour made from orchids — Bakdash ice cream is distinct from American brands like Ben & Jerry's and Häagen-Dazs: The traditional Syrian ice cream has a more elastic texture and slightly more perfumed flavour than the Western versions.

The Damascus landmark's appearance in Jordan is a bittersweet sign of one of the civil war's tragic repercussions: The dispersal of Syria's population and culture. Jordan alone is home to more than half a million Syrians, out of nearly two million who have fled into neighbouring countries with no immediate prospects of return. The number is rising by the thousands daily, as life in Syria becomes more tenuous.

Bakdash's owners still keep the Damascus shop running, but they have set up shops in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, hoping the new businesses will help keep the home store afloat. The stores abroad could also be insurance for the future as the war, now in its third year, batters Syria's economy and annihilates tourism.

About half of the Amman branch's customers are Syrians, said the assistant manager, Yarob Ababneh, whose father is Bakdash's Jordanian partner.

"Once or twice I saw people cry," he said. "Bakdash has been in Syria since 1895, so those who grew up there know the place and have been there many times." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"When I meet other Syrians here in the parlour, I feel my spirit lift."

Basima, a Syrian housewife who fled to Jordan seven months ago and was thrilled to discover a touch of home in Bakdash's Amman branch.

A worker prepares ice cream at the Bakdash ice-cream store in Amman, Jordan, Wednesday, where a branch of a more-than-century-old Damascus ice-cream parlour has opened up shop to serve its famous dessert to Syrians displaced by a bloody civil war. MOHAMMAD HANNON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Saudi outbreak included SARS-like symptoms

World health. Report reveals MERS virus spread easily from person to person, perhaps including a 'superspreader'

A long-awaited report on a large and possibly ongoing outbreak of the MERS coronavirus in Saudi Arabia reveals the virus spreads easily within hospitals, at one point passing in a person-to-person chain that encompassed at least five generations of spread.

The study, co-written by Toronto SARS expert Dr. Allison McGeer, also hints there may have been a superspreader in this outbreak, with one person infecting at least seven others.

The study lays out what is known about an outbreak of MERS that erupted this spring in four hospitals in Saudi Arabia. It was reported online on Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine.

Superspreaders played a key role amplifying SARS cases during the 2003 outbreak. That, combined with the symptoms and the long and varied incubation period, paint a picture that is reminiscent of SARS for the authors, several of whom, like McGeer, worked in Toronto to contain that coronavirus.

"This virus is closer to SARS than anything else," McGeer, an infection control specialist at Mount Sinai Hospital, said in an interview from Cairo.

"If you want to think about how you're going to prevent and manage hospital outbreaks, SARS is the place that all of us would start."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Unnerving'

McGeer said there are some fortunate distinctions between the MERS and SARS outbreaks, as well as some worrisome differences.

- The high attack rate among patients was "pretty unnerving," she said, as is the fact that it appears people are infectious earlier in their illness than SARS patients were.

New York City. 8 injured as car jumps curb, slams into Manhattan store

Police and fire officials say eight people have been injured, one of them critically, after a car jumped a curb and slammed into a Manhattan store.

The white-coloured car hit a 24-hour grocery store around 7 a.m. Wednesday.

One witness, Rafael Fuentes, says the driver lost control about a block away and plowed through everything on the sidewalk.

Another witness, Najava Stone, says people were hurt by flying debris. He says the car spun before landing in a crosswalk.

A fire hydrant landed down the block, a large tree and a street sign were down and outdoor refrigerator cases were overturned. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A destroyed Nissan Altima sits in the street after crashing in the East Village neighbourhood of New York City on Wednesday. ANDREW BURTON/GETTY IMAGES

Chile

Presidential candidate pelted with eggs

Chilean protesters have thrown eggs at conservative presidential candidate Pablo Longueira after he performed a Zumba dance.

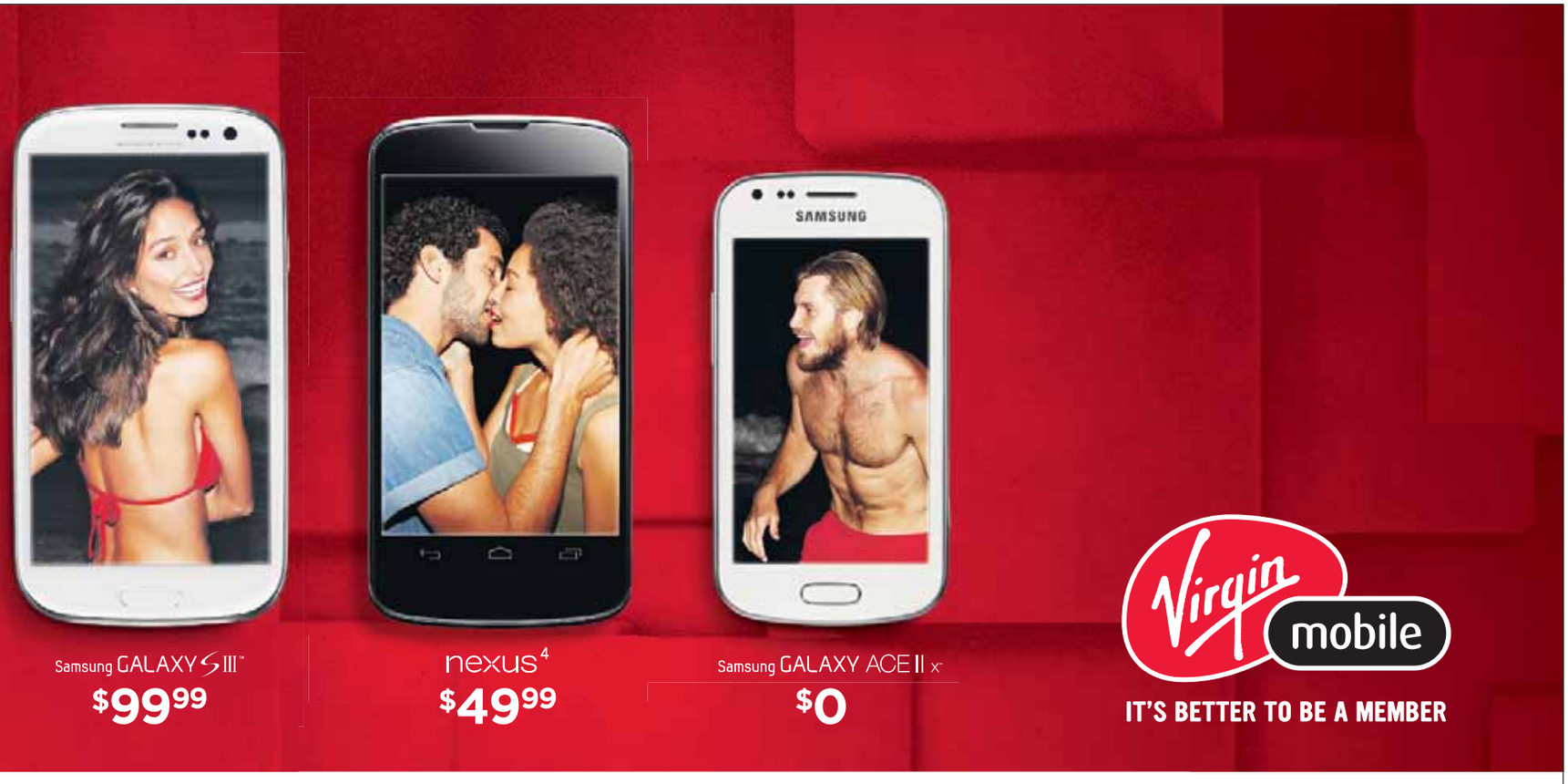
Reports say construction workers in Santiago Wednesday threw eggs at Longueira, who was close to ex-dictator Augusto Pinochet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran

Tweets seem to show softer side of ayatollah

A Twitter feed believed to be run by the office of Iran supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei now sports musings about his boyhood and mountain strolls.

The tweets are widely believed to be endorsed by Iran's top ruler, who rarely discusses personal matters in public. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Somalia. Militants launch deadly attack on UN compound in Mogadishu

Seven al-Qaida-linked gunmen detonated a pickup truck rigged with explosives at the gate of the UN compound in Somalia's capital Wednesday, launching a bombs-and-gunfire assault that saw militants pour into the complex, killing at least nine people, including three foreigners, officials said.

The seven al-Shabaab militants were from what the militia called its martyrdom, or suicide, brigade. They all died in the assault, an official said, bringing the overall death toll to at least 16.

The attack comes only six months after the UN expanded its presence in Mogadishu, where it had kept only a small operation because insurgents had controlled much of the capital until being pushed out in an offensive in 2011.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

African Union peacekeepers take position outside a UN compound following an attack by al-Qaida-linked militants in Mogadishu, Somalia, Wednesday.

FARAH ABDI WARSAMEH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Displaced by conflict

Refugee numbers hit 18-year high

The Syrian civil war contributed to pushing the numbers of those displaced by conflict within their own nation to an 18-year high of 45.2 million worldwide by the end of 2012, the UN refugee agency said Wednesday. Those are the highest numbers since 1994, when people fled bloodshed in Rwanda and Yugoslavia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston bombings

Body of man shot flown to Russia

The father of a 27-year-old man fatally shot in May in Florida while being questioned about the Boston Marathon bombings by an FBI agent and two troopers says he has brought the body to Russia.

Ibragim Todashev's father said Wednesday that he had flown the body to Moscow and was planning on flying it to Chechnya on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cuba jails Toronto man 9 years over corruption charges

Co-defendant. Cousin and business associate sentenced to four years, family says

For almost two years as he sat in a Havana prison awaiting trial on corruption charges, North York businessman Sarkis Yacoubian held out hope that by collaborating with the Cuban authorities and fingering a wide web of foreign and domestic corporate intrigue, he would get some leniency.

But that didn't happen.

Three weeks after he was put on trial in late May, 53-year-old Yacoubian finally got word he has been sentenced to nine years in jail.

Krikor Yacoubian, Sarkis' brother in Toronto, says the family has decided not to appeal his brother's sentence but to immediately start the lengthy legal and diplomatic manoeuvres to get Sarkis transferred to Canada under a prisoner transfer treaty Canada signed with Cuba in 1999.

Sarkis Yacoubian
PHOTO COURTESY OF FAMILY

Arrested in July 2011 and detained without charges, Yacoubian, who operated a $30-million transport and trading company called Tri-Star Caribbean, was formally accused in April of bribery, tax evasion and "activities damaging to the economy."

Yacoubian disputed many of the specifics of the case but he said he decided to co-operate with the Cubans, exposing what he called the "black forces" of corruption and naming more than a dozen foreign companies and executives.

In September 2011, Cuban authorities arrested a second GTA man — 73-year-old Cy Tokmakjian, whose $80-million Tokmakjian Group is one of the largest foreign operations in Cuba. His family said he has still not been charged.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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This is the illustration that appeared on the crowdfunding website Indiegogo for the Crackstarter campaign, started by Gawker, which aimed to raise enough money to buy a video that allegedly shows Toronto Mayor Rob Ford smoking crack. The crowdfunding goal was surpassed with $201,204 raised. SCREENGRAB/INDIEGOGO.COM

Indiegogo defends Crackstarter campaign

Crowdfunding. Website co-founder says effort to raise money for alleged crack video was about giving power to people

A campaign that raised $200,000 to purchase an alleged video appearing to show Toronto Mayor Rob Ford smoking crack was a "beautiful example" of the fundraising power of the Internet, says the website that hosted the controversial crusade.

"That campaign really just speaks to what crowdfunding is about, which is giving the power to people to decide what matters to them and to fund what matters to them," said Danae Ringelmann, co-founder of crowdfunding site Indiegogo.

The video fundraising campaign was launched by Gawker, a U.S. site whose editor John Cook claimed he'd watched the video, which was being shopped around for $200,000 by drug dealers. Ford has said the alleged video does not exist and that he does not use crack cocaine. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Retail. Loblaw tests new smaller discount grocery store format in Calgary

Canada's largest grocer is trying out a new discount small-store format in a bid to attract more customers in urban areas. Loblaw Cos. Ltd. said it opened the new 10,000-square-foot store a few weeks ago in Calgary.

The location, named Box by No Frills, offers "hard discounts and an everyday low price" on groceries and other merchandise, Sarah Davis, Loblaw's chief financial officer, said in a conference call Wednesday.

"We are trying that as a pilot to see, 'Is it something that we can infill in a lot of areas of Canada because it's only 10,000 square feet?'" she told investors from the company's Brampton headquarters.

Loblaw's discount chain of stores, No Frills, are typically 25,000 square feet. The company also operates a number of other banners, including Real Canadian Superstore, which has a large format and wide range of general merchandise in addition to groceries.

A logo for Box by No Frills. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The new Box format is being tested as the company creates one of Canada's largest commercial real estate trusts with its grocery property assets, and prepares for stiffer competition from Target, Walmart Canada and Sobey's, which recently announced a $5.8-billion deal to buy Safeway Inc. in Western Canada.

Davis said if the small-box format is successful, the grocery chain will buy new property to develop into more locations under the Box banner. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Milan

Dolce, Gabbana convicted of tax evasion

A Milan court has convicted the designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana of tax evasion. They were found guilty of failing to declare about $273 million through a Luxembourg company to authorities and given a one-year-and-eight-months suspended jail sentence. They were ordered to pay a penalty of about $682,000 to tax authorities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 97.34¢ (-0.60¢)

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LUMINATO FESTIVAL

Luminato Festival Salutes our Volunteers

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Luminato Festival comes to life thanks to its enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. As part of its Volunteer program, Luminato Festival partners with Culture Link, a settlement agency for new Canadians. Zarina Decambra is one of sixteen Culture Link Mentors who guide newcomer volunteers through the Luminato Festival experience and introduce them to Canadian culture and the city of Toronto.

Have you been enjoying the festival so far?
Yes, we have had a great time. Yesterday, we had the chance to see *Concerto for Piano & Pasteboards*.

What did you like about this particular event?
It was fascinating to watch how two very different artistic abilities were matched. We got a close up view of the magician's hands and were astonished by how fast he could manipulate his cards, matching it to the music the pianist was playing.

How do you introduce newcomer volunteers to Canadian culture?
As a group, we talked about what Canadian Culture is and I explained that it is a unique experience, because Canadian Culture really is a composite of many different cultures coming together in the city of Toronto. When I invite you to my house, you will get a Canadian experience infused with East Indian flavour. It is a celebration of all cultures coming together.

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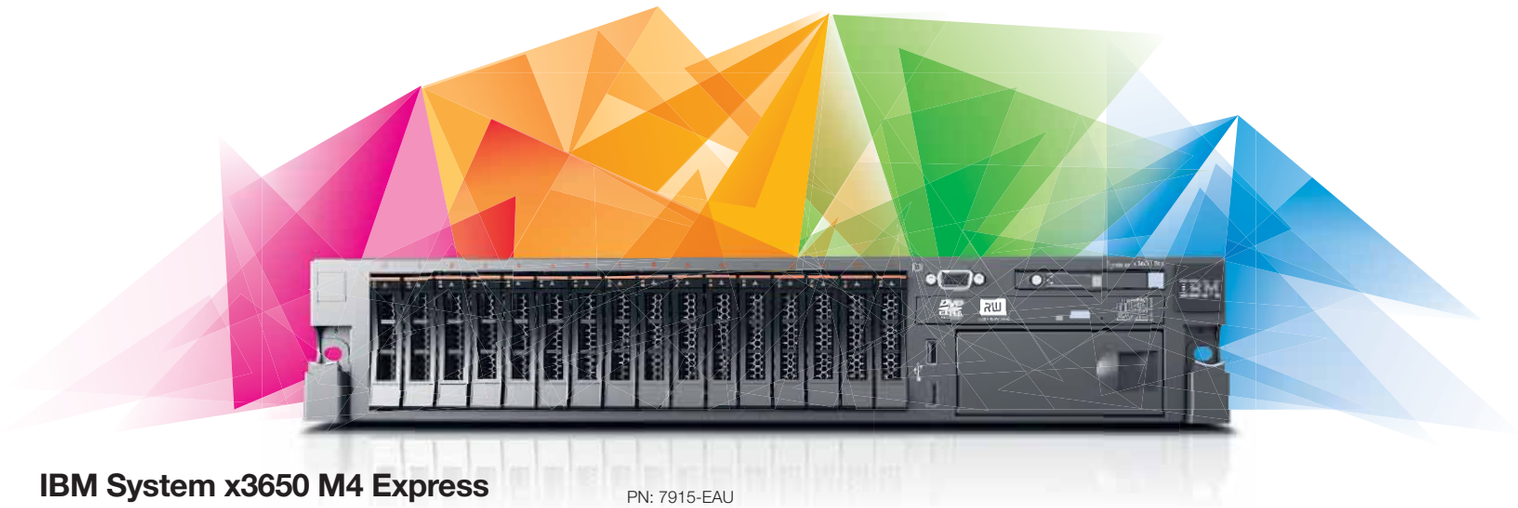

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IT'S BEAN THE ONLY REMEDY

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Damn you, Charles Darwin.

My back hurts all the time and its origin is you. If it weren't for evolution, I'd be on all fours, with my spine on the straight and narrow. Instead, I'm upright, crooked and twisted, all the weight of the world (and evolutionary history) on my lower back.

Or if the creationists are right, then God has a Robaxacet doll that he keeps sticking needles in.

But it's probably Darwin.

I would have been so much happier as a spineless, lower form of life, like a slug or a personal-injury lawyer. Instead I'm the guy at the far right of the March of Progress illustration, the one holding the small of his back and with a sound bubble that says %&$#?@!.

My injury is particularly pathetic. Not only was I not exerting myself in any way, I wasn't even doing something embarrassing like reaching for the remote or picking up a dropped Cheeto.

I was asleep.

I woke up, possibly from the sound of my back screaming at me, and suddenly my life was bags of frozen green beans, kneeling to look in the fridge, and attempting to put socks on without using my hands.

Back pain is the most ignoble of all injuries — too painful to be ignored, but not dramatic enough to be pitied.

There are no songs sung about heroes who suffered through lumbago, no Hollywood films where an ingenue dies because of a cruel twist of torso. Its place in popular culture is to show you how much of a buffoon a sitcom dad is — oh, his aching back!

Four out of five adults suffer occasional back pain — so all the dentists, if I understand statistics — which means you get no sympathy for your pain, only stories of much worse back pain, possibly due to the bigger fish they were reeling in that got away.

You can't even show it off, like a scar or a broken leg. It's completely hidden, beneath that frozen bag of green beans. (I find peas too uncomfortable.)

Long story compacted, I'll have to do something to fix it, lest I never twerk again.

What do the experts say I need?

- Good body mechanics: I didn't even know there were body mechanics. I assume you get on a lift of some sort for a few days while he/she checks you out and you're good to go? Of course, they'll find something else wrong and charge you for it, but that comes with the territory. "Your back's good, but we had to replace your duodenum. It was making weird noises."
- "Let your legs do the work": All the advice columns say this, but it doesn't work. I've left a bunch of stuff for them to do, yet my books remain unbalanced and my dishes remain unwashed. I think they're lazy.
- Neutral Pelvic Position: I bought their new album, but frankly they were better at Coachella.

As this list makes clear, it will be no time before I've gone from a young man whining through back pain to a young man who has come to understand he will always have back pain. Or as Darwin once put it: "%&$#?@!"

ZOOM

A little (tweeting) bird will tell you

SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Royal couple will be traditional and trendy with announcement

With Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge expecting their first child in mid-July — and much of the world interested in the birth of a future monarch — the royals' office has released some of the couple's plans.

There will be a mix of tradition and new social media to announce the birth. Officials said a royal aide will emerge from the hospital with a signed bulletin on foolscap-sized paper carrying the Buckingham Palace letterhead. The bulletin will be given to an official who will be driven to the palace, where it will be posted on an easel in public view in front of the building.

At the same time, there will be an announcement on Twitter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boy or girl?

- Royal officials can't say whether it's a boy or girl — and it's not because they are being coy, it's because Kate and William have not found out — and don't plan to.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

With rumours swirling that Facebook is set to announce video for Instagram, avoiding videos of cats, cupcakes and concerts will be nearly impossible. So why fight the inevitable? Embrace the filtered vids and start posting your own. But in case the rumour mill doesn't produce, here are some video-sharing sites already on offer:

Socialcam:
One of the first video-sharing apps with filters — think of Socialcam as Instagram video's older brother (or would that be father?). Available for iPhone and Android.

Cinemagram:
Also has the options of adding filters, but with added tricks like adding masks, playing videos backwards, in slow mo or on high speed. Available for iPhone and Android.

Viddy:
Before Vine, there was Viddy. But while Vine gives users a six-second time limit, Viddy lets you record for up to 30. Available for iPhone and Android.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: According to Metro's Paul Sullivan, tipping should be optional. What do you think?

@Richard_Dew: Tipping IS optional. No gun to your head. Also optional for people to think you're a cheapskate for not tipping.

@FrenchmanCanada: I know a couple places where the "You didn't dip, next time I'll spit in your food" will never be optional.

@serpentina66: I'd rather see servers pd more than deciding a tip. Mgrs should b responsible for good servers; customers shouldn't pay more for expected service; it's awkward for cust to deny tips for poor service.

@instakrystal: I never feel obligated to tip. If you're a good server and earn it, you'll be rewarded. My tips are dependent on experience.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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Drunken master, hidden talent

Chinese cinema. Before he was a major star, Jackie Chan had to do his own stunts on low budget movies to ensure they got made

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

Jackie Chan's early silver-screen years are being chronicled at the TIFF Bell Lightbox. HANDOUT

"We didn't have the money to buy the airbag. 'A half-million for an airbag? Forget it. We'll use apple boxes.'"

Jackie Chan always performed his own stunts not as a gimmick, but out of necessity. In his early years as an actor in Hong Kong, budgets were small, timelines tight and stunt people — who in Hollywood would use an airbag when jumping off a 10-storey building — a foreign concept. Now 59 years old, he recalls the fly-by the seat of your pants shooting style with fondness.

"We didn't know how to make films the American way."

Chan's early silver-screen years, like the classic action-comedy Drunken Master, are chronicled at the TIFF Bell Lightbox's ambitious retrospective, A Century of Chinese Cinema.

"(Drunken Master) still stands up," says Noah Cowan, the man responsible for assembling the 80 films that represent the crème de la crème of one of the world's largest film industries.

He describes Chan a transitional figure.

"Most of the world knows Chinese cinema through martial arts and kung fu cinema."

Yet China has more to offer moviegoers than tightly choreographed fight scenes.

"Different generations would classify Chinese cinema as different things," he says. "There's a long tradition."

It took Cowan three years and the help of regional archives in Taiwan, Hong Kong and the mainland to assemble the retrospective, the kind of cooperation that is a prime example of what Chan says he hopes is his lasting legacy.

"I really want to have a cultural exchange."

Even when making Hollywood films, like Rush Hour 2, he'd film part of the movie in China to further the two industry's understanding of one another.

"All those years, that's what I'm doing."

A Century of Chinese Cinema runs until Aug. 11. See tiff.net for full listings.

Inspiration

TIFF's Chinese Cinema retrospective is neatly divided into five distinct eras. "We really encourage people to sample from them all," says Cowan.

- **The Golden Age.** Before the rise of the People's Republic, China produced some of the era's best films.
- **A New China.** Political upheaval is reflected on the silver screen.
- **The Evolution of Genre Cinema.** Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan, Jet Li – these are the films that put Chinese cinema on the pop culture map.

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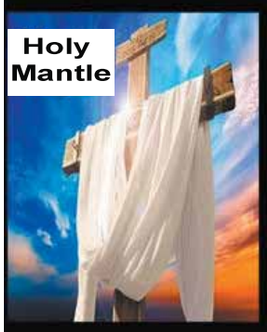

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Making the movie

Dave Foley had a monster of a time

Dave Foley had familiar company in the recording booth as he laid down voice work for his latest animated feature.

Foley played opposite Sean Hayes as an on-screen couple for several episodes during the sixth season of the hit sitcom Will & Grace. The Canadian actor, writer and comedian has reunited with the Emmy winner to portray Terry and Terri, two-headed monster siblings in the upcoming film Monsters University, a prequel to the hit 2001 animated flick Monsters, Inc.

"I knew Sean pretty well, and it was really fun to just walk in the studio with him," Foley said Tuesday during an interview. "We immediately started ad-libbing, and we have pretty good chemistry together."

While voice work is typically a solitary process, Foley said the makers of Monsters University felt it important to bring the "sibling squabbling quality" to life. THE CANADIAN PRESS

What monster (at university) are you?

1. Randy Boggs

- **Says.** "I have an extra toe. Not with me, of course. That would be embarrassing."
- **Scare tactic.** He seems nerdy but don't trust this monster: He's a chameleon that's waiting to strike.
- **Have you ever...** Made everyone in the office think you're their friend and then stab them in the back until you're the last man standing?

2. Squishy

- **Says.** "Wanna join Oozma Kappa? We have cake."
- **Scare tactic.** The most annoying kind of monster. The one that kills you with kindness.
- **Have you ever...** Brought a co-worker diarrhea medication, long johns or a scarf, all because you actually care?

Who can slee

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CHRIS ROBAK,
METRO WORLD NEWS

3. Sulley

- **Says.** "I'm going to wipe the floor with that little know-it-all."
- **Scare tactic.** Natural Born Scarer... but he loves life more than scaring.
- **Have you ever...** Shown up for an exam without a pen and ended up charming the hot girl next to you to do your test?

4. Mike

- **Says.** "I've been waiting for this my whole life! I'm gonna be a scarer!"
- **Scare tactic.** Preparation. He knows that genius is one per cent talent and 10,000 hours of study.
- **Have you ever...** Shown up for a bungee jump with a 700-page manual but then forgot to attach a rope?

5. Art

- **Says.** "I can't go back to jail!!!"
- **Scare tactic.** Art knows that nothing is scarier than unpredictability, especially when you're pink and furry.
- **Have you ever...** Gone to the grocery store wearing only your bathrobe and flip flops, spilling milk on your beard while lecturing the clerk about Lenin?

6. Dean Hardscrabble

- **Says.** "If you're not scary, what kind of a monster are you?"
- **Scare tactic.** In charge of the University, she's a square-jawed, know-it-all, fire-breathing larva.
- **Have you ever...** Thrown your coat at an intern after ordering her to babysit your kid and cook a hot lunch?

Grandpa Mike is in the house

Billy Crystal. Actor talks about how his grandkids discovered he was famous

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Billy Crystal's fourth and most recent grandchild was born on March 14. "Born on my, I hate to say it, 65th birthday," he says. "No! I love to say it, because I'm here and it's good."

The "here" is a Toronto press junket for Monster's University, a prequel to the Oscar winning Monster's Inc.

In both he voices Mike Wazowski, a green eyeball creature whose goal in life is to scare kids. I ask if his grandchildren have seen either film. "The little guy's seen everything," he jokes, "I'm a night light."

The three older kids were introduced to the movie in a scary way.

"The girls and I were walking in a mall and some of these paparazzi — I have to say it — creeps, jumped out and started taking pictures of us. Really freaked them out. 'Why are they doing that!" So I had to explain to them what I did. That I was internationally famous…" (pauses for the laugh).

"So I showed them Monster's Inc. I couldn't show them the orgasm scene from When Harry Met Sally. 'Why is she making that noise?' Then I became Grandpa Mike. I had to be Mike Wazowski for about a year. They'd call the house, 'Is Mike there?' 'OK, I'll get him. Hold on.' (Pauses.) 'Hi!' (he says in Wazowski's distinctive high-pitched voice.) 'Are you looking for me?'

"Now they see me around. There were billboards when I did the Oscars so now they are kind of used to it.

"It's confusing to me! It was, 'Who's that guy?' They watch the same things over and over and over and over again. And over again. And over again. We were watching Dora the Explorer exploring the same thing and then I was looking at the guide and I saw that City Slickers was on. I took the remote. 'Let's see what else is on. There I am!' She actually just said, 'How?'

Billy Crystal loved playing Mike Wazowski for his grandkids. GETTY IMAGES

"Now it's like bragging rights at school, but we're trying to play it down. We live in a town where a lot of the kid's parents are performers. We read book at their school every two weeks, and there are a lot of famous parents."

When I ask if they and their friends will ever realize how cool it is that the "internationally famous" Billy Crystal read to them he laughs, "I think OK, but Will Ferrell read the day before."

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Blockbuster material?

Brad Pitt crossed his Zs for new film

Brad Pitt wanted to build a better blockbuster.
During the years Hollywood shifted toward increasingly bigger spectacles and superhero tentpoles, one of the movies' biggest stars largely stayed on the sidelines, focusing instead on ambitious ensembles. But the zombie apocalypse World War Z, which opens Friday, is Pitt's bold, big-budget effort to enter the franchise fray.

It's been a humbling crusade. "These films are much more difficult than I realized," Pitt said in a recent interview.

Based on the 2006 sci-fi novel World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War by Max Brooks (son of Mel), the $200-million-plus film has had a rocky path to theatres.

But the reviews have largely been positive for World War Z, a riveting, brisk thriller — and, for summer movies, atypically — a human protagonist who relies purely on his intellect as he tries to solve the zombie pandemic that's engulfed the planet. Pitt's former UN investigator has no superpowers, no gun, and as Pitt says, "can't even run that fast." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Breathing life into an undead story

World War Z. What sets this zombie movie apart from other summer thrillers is the familial realities weaved in the story, says Mireille Enos

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

Society has become obsessed with the undead. Not only are zombie movies persistent fixtures of the multiplex but the walking dead can be seen on television, in video games and even read about in published guides to surviving fictional outbreaks. So with World War Z set to open, how does star Mireille Enos think the film will fare in such a saturated market?

"Well, on an action level, we have the fastest zombies," offered the actress during an interview in Manhattan.

"There's also the family story, which is a survival story, and then there's a global story — the zombies I think act as metaphor for the different crises on our planet."

Metaphors aside, World War Z (which itself is based loosely on a hit novel) may be more noteworthy as Brad Pitt's first such shot at the zombie genre.

In fact, Pitt also produced the film in which he plays a United Nations' investigator forced to abandon his loving wife (Enos) and children to explore an uncontrollable global viral outbreak that turns ordinary citizens into flesh-eaters.

"I think that's why he's the star that he is — he's an everyman and he's such a normal guy that people see themselves and respond to that," says Enos of Pitt's appeal as a family man-turned-reluctant hero.

More online

Visit metronews.ca for our review of World War Z, and be sure to pick up tomorrow's Metro for the Reel Guys' take on the movie.

"He's obviously a family man himself and loves that role. You can just feel it every time he talks about his family."

As filmmaker Marc Forster has insisted, it was important to ground the thriller in that level of familial realism. And, Enos adds, it's especially vital in a summer filled with extraordinary superheroes and far-flung space adventures. "(Brad's character is) not a superhero even though he's an action hero," said Enos. "He just wanted to play it as a dad with a set of skills but he's just doing his job."

Public Meetings On Accessibility

Metrolinx, an agency of the Province of Ontario, is helping to transform the way the region moves by championing and delivering mobility solutions for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

You are invited to share your ideas on how Metrolinx and its operating divisions–GO Transit, PRESTO and Union Pearson Express can make it easier for people with disabilities to travel around our region. Metrolinx invites you to attend a public information meeting and participate in roundtable discussions.

WHITBY
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Location: Abilities Centre, Theatre/Multi-Purpose Room (Second Floor)
55 Gordon Street, Whitby, ON L1N 0J2

Closest GO Transit station: Whitby GO Station
For local transit schedule information, visit Durham Region Transit's website at **durhamregiontransit.com.**

TORONTO
Date: Wednesday, July 3, 2013
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Location: Metro Hall, Rooms 308 and 309
55 John Street, Toronto, ON M5V 3C6

Closest GO Transit station: Union Station – Train or Union Station Bus Terminal
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If you are interested in attending a meeting, please fill out the registration form on our website at **metrolinx.com/accessibility.** If you cannot attend, but have suggestions to contribute, please submit them to the website as well.

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Mireille Enos (second right from Brad Pitt) stars in World War Z, which opens this Friday. HANDOUT

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Ready to dance with the devil one more time?

Revenge Wears Prada. Author Lauren Weisberger's sequel to the wildly popular Devil Wears Prada catches up with Andy and a very familiar face 10 years on

ALISON BOWEN
Metro World News in New York City

The devil is back. And she's still wearing Prada. Ten years after The Devil Wears Prada, the main character, Andy, is back for a sequel, Revenge Wears Prada. Author Lauren Weisberger kicked off the launch this month, complete with pink drinks, champagne and plenty of the alternating red- and white-covered books.

Metro spoke with Weisberger at the Gilt City launch party in New York City. She said that after surveying a decade of changes herself, she wanted to explore what Andy's life would be like 10 years on. In the book, Andy — engaged and now helming her own magazine — encounters fresh challenges of her own while also preparing to walk down the aisle.

One of those challenges? Well, we'll let you guess, but it includes a familiar face.

How did you decide to bring back Andy for a new book?
I'd been thinking about it for a really long time. So much happens in all of our lives in 10 years. I just got really curious about what would be going on with Andy and Emily and the whole crew. I thought it would be really fun to not just check in with them and pick up their story 10 years later, but to create a whole 10-year backstory, so it was kind of the best of both worlds.

How was it different writing this book than your other novels, where you started fresh with brand-new characters?
It was a little strange, but I really liked it. It's great and it's fun to sit down with an empty screen, and you can just start from scratch. For me, the challenge came in wanting to stay true to them, wanting to keep them the same people that the readers recognized and connected with the first time, but also letting them grow up and face their own obstacles.

What will Andy face in this new book that she wouldn't have faced 10 years ago?
Ten years ago she was wide-eyed, fresh-faced, straight out of college, super naive. And 10 years have gone by, and she's way more experienced in the industry now. She's doing what she loves, which is writing. She's founded this magazine, and I think she's much more confident, much more sure of herself. She's a proper grown-up.

Lauren Weisberger. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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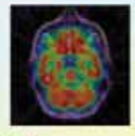

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SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 31

Huston's villainous legacy continues in Magic City

James Caan and Danny Huston in Magic City. AP PHOTO/STARZ

Q&A. Actor from a famous family talks about playing his latest bad guy, 1950s gangster Ben Diamond, working with friends

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York City

Danny Huston's acting career didn't take off until he was nearly 40, but it was inevitable he'd get around to it sooner or later.

After all, he comes from Hollywood royalty: His father, John, grandfather, Walter, and half-sister, Anjelica, are all Oscar-winners and movie legends.

The scene-stealer from Birth, The Constant Gardener and The Proposition can now be seen as fearsome gangster Ben "The Butcher" Diamond on the 1950s Miami show Magic City, which just began its second season on Starz.

What attracted you to your character?
There's a fallen emperor quality about Ben Diamond, where he's sort of biding his time — languishing around a pool, fulfilling his sexual depravity. But he's also a shrewd businessman, someone who wants to get things going. There's a certain honesty to Ben Diamond. He's not ashamed.

You've played villains before, but Ben seems to be the most villainous, no?
The key to playing a villain — and this might be obvious — is to find the humanity in them.

Nobody regards themselves as villainous or all that bad. In the case of Ben Diamond, I thought I would give that up (laughs). I would play him for the badass that he is.

Somehow, I find that endearing.

This is one of your only steady TV gigs. What made you want to work on television?
I worked with Tom Hooper on John Adams, as Samuel Adams. That's when I realized there's a real scope here, that you can actually tell your story.

There's this room (in television) to tell a story. Then I did (Kevorkian) with Al Pacino, and I realized there was this whole built-in audience.

And to release something about Kevorkian theatrically, it would just be impossible.

Showrunner and writer Mitch Glazer is a longtime friend of yours. What is it like working with a pal?
I come from a family where we encourage nepotism (laughs).

So there's nobody better to be working with than family or friends.

As long as you respect them, as long as you want to serve their vision, then it's all good.

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Deborah Ann Woll plays Jessica Hamby in True Blood. GETTY IMAGES

Vivacious vampire vixen reveals her vulnerable side

True Blood. Deborah Ann Woll talks about not forgetting pains of old and what to look out for in season 6

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in New York City

Actress Deborah Ann Woll, who plays Jessica Hamby in True Blood — now entering into its sixth season — talks about her character's sexy new style, the bullying she experienced at school and why she wouldn't glamour away a thing.

Hoyt, Jessica and Jason. Will the saga continue in season 6?
There's certainly some saga with Jessica and Jason. They've been left without Hoyt now. He's in Alaska and he doesn't remember him. That part is settled.

Ah yes, Jess glamoured him. Are there any moments from your personal life that you'd do that with?
I don't know if I would want to do that. I already live in fear that there are things I've done that have impacted or hurt other people. I don't even know if I'd want to forget the hurt that I've experienced. I struggled a lot with kids in my school. I endured a little bit of bullying. It was lonely. It was hard to find people who didn't think I was lame ... I wouldn't want to forget anything that has been done to hurt me. But I can understand why Hoyt would want to.

What can you tell us about the new season?
The humans have a lot more information about vampires because they came out of the closet so a lot of their secrets are being revealed and they know better ways to fight them. You'll see some new weaponry. There's definitely a strong sense of threat. That the humans are now able to put themselves on equal footing.

Jessica has gone through quite a style transformation since she first appeared on the show.
You know, I always used to say that until maybe season 5, Jessica was always dressed by the men in her life. In the first few seasons it was Bill who dressed her how he thought a teenager should look. And then, Hoyt dressed her how he wanted his wife to look. So she never got a chance to experiment with her style. So I liked season 5 because she could choose her own clothes. She got to go out. She had a chance to play with that a little bit.

I remember her wearing a lot of lingerie looks, a lot of fishnets.
I really enjoyed that Betsey Johnson look in the first episode of season 5. When I go to Fangtasia to see Tara and we end up bonding and getting in that fist fight. I loved that fun, punk '80s feel to it. I had these great, pink high heel boots. They worked for going out, bonding with her best vampire friend and a badass fight.

As you do. Has Jessica influenced the way that you dress off-duty?
I'm about as boring as it gets when it comes to my clothing. I'm a very reserved person so I never want my clothing to be louder than me.

To glamour someone

• **Definition.** Glamouring is used by a vampire to get out of sticky situations, bribery, commandment and various other uses. It is a form of hypnosis that all vampires have the potential to use innately.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

James Gandolfini ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Sopranos star James Gandolfini dies at 51

James Gandolfini, who won three Emmys for his role as Tony Soprano on HBO's The Sopranos, reportedly died in Italy Tuesday after suffering a heart attack, TMZ reports.

Gandolfini, who was 51, was in Italy to attend the 59th Taormina Film Festival in Sicily.

He first garnered fame playing a hitman in 1993's True Romance. But it was his role as the brash, troubled mob boss Tony Soprano that earned him legions of fans of the six-season HBO series.

Gandolfini is survived by his wife, Deborah Lin, who gave birth to the couple's daughter in October.

He has a teenage son from a previous marriage.

METRO NEW YORK

Katy Perry can't stay away from the fireworks

For her first appearance on the cover of Vogue, Katy Perry isn't holding much back, especially about her split from ex-husband Russell Brand. "Let's just say I haven't heard from him since he texted me saying he was divorcing me December 31, 2011," she tells the magazine. As for why their marriage didn't work out? "I think a lot of times strong men do want an equal, but when they get that equal they're like, 'I can't handle it,'" she says. Perry also addresses her romance with John Mayer, quashing rumours they're together again. "It's over, I was madly in love with him. I still am madly in love with him," she says. "Beautiful mind, tortured soul. I do have to figure out why I am attracted to these broken birds."

The Word

Paula Deen revealed as racist jerk?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

The fearless National Enquirer claims to have unearthed a video of famed "chef" Paula Deen allegedly admitting to using the N-word as well as making a myriad of terrible racist jokes, aimed at African Americans and Jewish people.

The Enquirer claims Deen was filmed in a May 17 deposition to defend herself and her brother Bubba Hiers against a giant lawsuit filed by the former general manager of their Savannah, Ga., restaurant.

Metro has not seen the video, so we have no way of verifying its authenticity.

Lisa Jackson is suing the family for use of defamatory language by Deen and sexual harassment and infliction of distress and assault by Hiers.

The worst from the tape? The Inquirer alleges Deen admits to saying that she wanted "black waiters to play the role of slaves in a wedding party she was planning."

Deen also reportedly gave several examples of when she used the N-word and fesses up to making racist jokes about "Jewish people, rednecks, black folks... I can't determine what offends another person." Her defence is "they're jokes."

Actually, no they aren't. Even in Georgia, those aren't jokes.

Miley Cyrus

Miley Cyrus says it's better to go green

Miley Cyrus isn't being shy when it comes to her opinions on drugs and alcohol. "I think alcohol is way more dangerous than marijuana — people can be mad at me for saying that, but I don't care. I've seen a lot of people spiral down with alcohol, but I've never seen that happen with weed," she tells Rolling Stone during an online Q&A. "As long as it isn't illegal, there are far more dangerous things. And it's legal in the state of California. So I'm happy to live in California, a place where you can be whoever you want to be."

Twitter

@mradamscott
I applaud this year's Bachelorette for being honest enough to behave as if she is in a nightmare.

@ NiallOfficial
On the bus listening to the eagles! Converting the lads ! It's easy! Best band ever !

@ralphmacchio
Do not really understand Instagram. Feels like just another thing to manage. But giving it a whirl. And tweeps like the pic effects.

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–SATOJOKO, CHICKADVISOR.COM

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SEE WHAT GIRLS ARE SAYING AT FACEBOOK.COM/ALWAYS

What a boy wants, what a boy needs

Usually, when magazines produce lists like this, the 'must-haves' are not always that accessible. So we've rounded up the best value versions of recession-proof classics that will never go out of style.

METRO WORLD NEWS

The shirt

Zara twill shirt
$60, zara.com

The shirt

Topman white scoop neck T-shirt
$14, topman.com

The chino

Ben Sherman EC1 slim
$95, bensherman.com

The jeans

Edwin ED80- slim-fit jeans
$200, mrporter.com

The coat

Heritage navy cotton peacoat, $310
bananarepublic.gap canada.com

These looks are time-proof. GUERRE

The knit

Linen crew neck,
$149.50, clubmonaco.ca

The desert boots

Clarks Originals suede desert boots
$140, clarkscanada.com

The suit

J.Crew Ludlow jacket
$525,
J.Crew Ludlow trousers,
$265
jcrew.com

The brogue

Mr. B's Theatum,
$175, aldoshoes.com

Styling tip

All lace-ups are not the same. The Oxford is the dressier older brother to the more informal brogue. You need both in your arsenal.

The Oxford

Mr. B's Paramonga,
$175, aldoshoes.com

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Daily essentials

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$48, CLARINS.CA

L'Oréal Men Expert Hydra Energetic Hydra Power Cleanser

Offering a deep facial clean without leaving the skin feeling dry or tight, this cleanser uses charcoal to capture dirt and oils.

$9.96, LOREAL.CA

Sunnies are shaping up for a celluloid summer with a range of trends that dovetail with some of Hollywood's newest and oldest hits. We look at how you can shop the most fashionable movies frame by frame.

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

Silver screen sunglasses

The film: The Hangover Part III

The look: Phil (Bradley Cooper)
The frames: Ray-Ban Aviator large metal II, $145, ray-ban.com

The film: Reservoir Dogs

The look: Mr. White (Harvey Keitel)
The frames: Lanvin black acetate sunglasses, $341, matchesfashion.com

The film: The Great Gatsby

The look: Jay Gatsby (Leonardo DiCaprio)
The frames: Bottega Veneta round-frame sunglasses, $480, mrporter.com

The film: Natural Born Killers

The look: Mickey Knox (Woody Harrelson)
The frames: Vintage surplus colour round sunglasses, $33, urbanoutfitters.com

The film: Public Enemies

The look: John Dillinger (Johnny Depp)
The frames: Quay Eyewear round sunglasses, $31, asos.com

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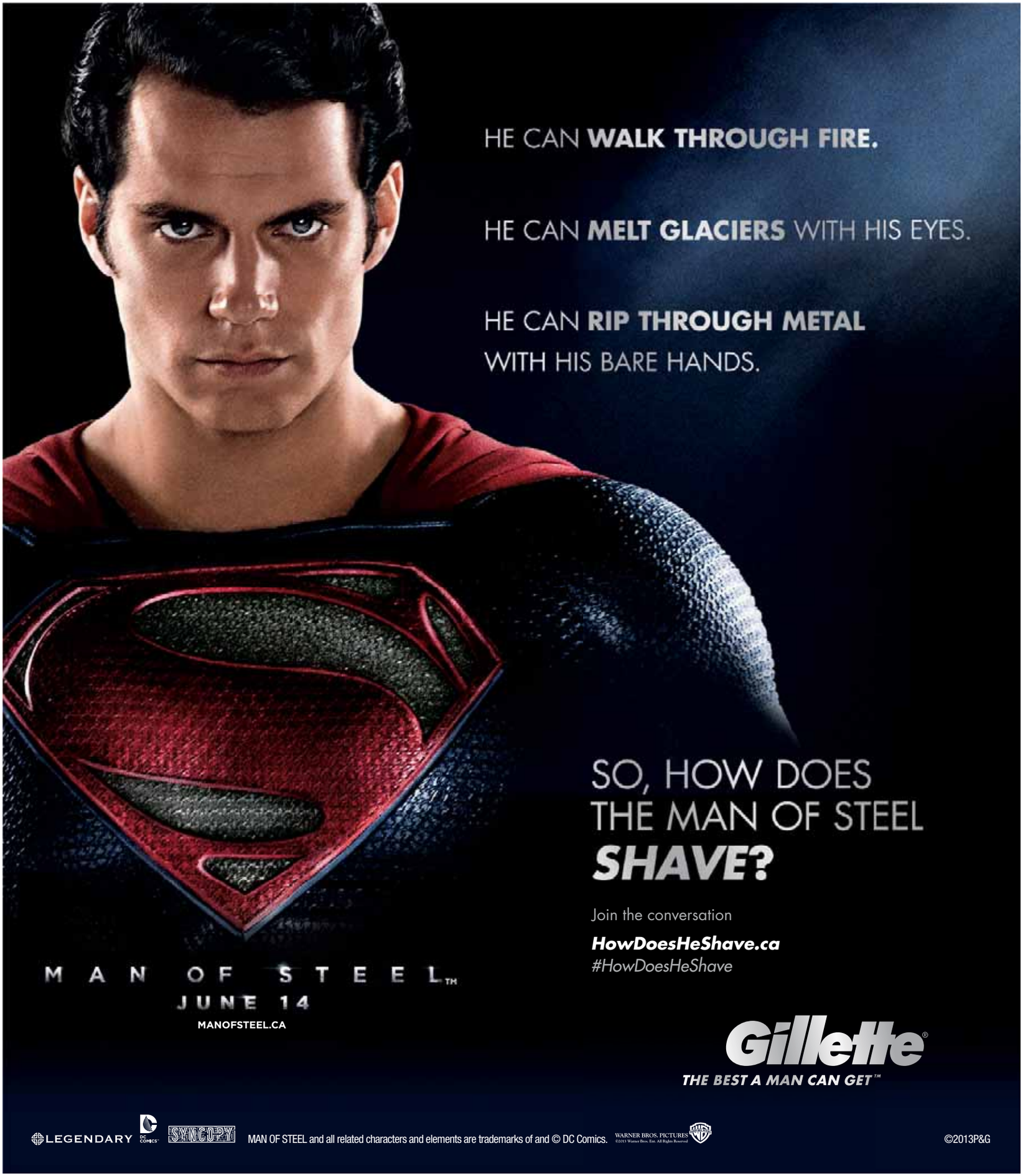
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Ashley Kowalewski
The Kit.ca

FOR MORE FASHION AND BEAUTY NEWS YOU CAN USE, CATCH UP WITH THE KIT AT THEKIT.CA

Trends Report

- One of the trends popping up this season are non-white wedding gowns, so why not consider adding a dash of colour to the dress you say "yes" to? Go to the Trends Report to see the latest colourful bridal fashion from the runways.

Visit metronews.ca/voices/trends-report to find out more.

Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Ottawa

Katie

Program Coordinator / Grad Student

Age:31

What she's wearing
Target dress, Lucky Brand flats, JCrew tote, Steve Madden glasses.

Her inspiration
"I'm mostly inspired by my friends!"

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: KATARINA KURUC, LOVEK.ORG

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM – AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

Are you "tripping" around in high heels with pointy toes?
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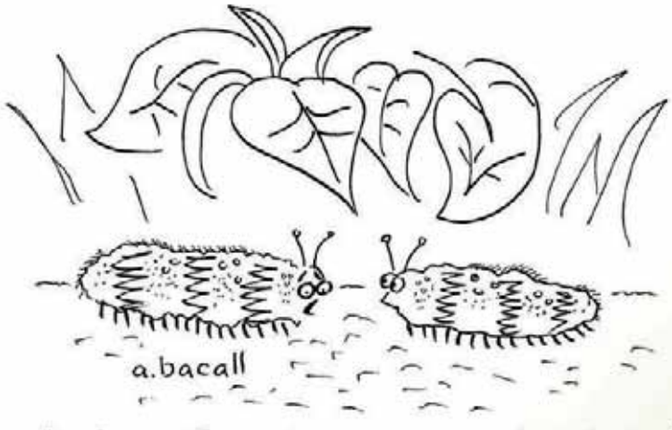

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Creamy sauce dresses up meat

This mouth-watering dish takes no time at all to prepare and the reward is delicious!

The pink peppercorn crust is complimented so well by the creamy, cheesy Canadian Cambozola sauce.

This one is sure to please your family, guests or even just yourself.

Ingredients

- 2 strip loin steaks, each about 8 oz (250 g)
- 2 cloves garlic, grated
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 2 tsp (10 ml) Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried thyme
- 1 1/2 tbsp (22 ml) pink peppercorns, crushed and divided

Creamy Cambozola Sauce

- 1 1/2 tbsp (22 ml) unsalted butter
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) 35% whipping cream
- 1/4 lb (125 g) Canadian Cambozola, Gorgonzola or Blue cheese, crumbled
- 1 tsp (5 ml) grated lemon zest

1. Bring steaks to room temperature, about 20 minutes. Pre-heat barbecue to medium-high heat.

2. In a small bowl whisk together garlic, olive oil, Worcestershire sauce and thyme. Brush steaks with marinade and firmly coat with the peppercorns reserving a 1/2 tsp (2 ml) to garnish sauce.

3. Place steaks on a greased grill in the centre (to allow even heat circulation). Grill covered, turning once, until steaks are medium-rare, about 8 minutes or until desired doneness. Transfer to a cutting board and let steaks stand 6 minutes before slicing or plating.

4. Creamy Cambozola Sauce: Meanwhile, heat a small saucepan on medium heat; melt butter. Add garlic, cook for 1 minute or until fragrant. Add cream and reduce by half, about 4 to 5 minutes. Slowly, whisk in cheese until pieces melt. Stir in lemon zest.

5. Serve sauce on the side or on top of a portion of the steak and garnish with remaining peppercorns. CHEF DEVAN RAJKUMAR/ DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA

Grilled Pink Peppercorn Steak with Creamy Cambozola Sauce

This recipe serves two to four people. DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA

For your phone

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MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

With new ideas for all types of meats, veggies, marinades, and burgers, this often-updated recipe collection will introduce you to plank grilling, brisket smoking, fried ravioli, and gourmet BBQ pizza.

New York steak of mind

Ingredients

- 4 New York strip steaks, each 285 to 340 g (10 to 12 oz) and about 2.5 cm (1 inch) thick, trimmed of excess fat
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) extra-virgin olive oil
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) kosher salt
- 5 ml (1 tsp) black pepper
- 250 ml (1 cup) freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) finely chopped fresh basil leaves
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) unsalted butter
- 2 medium garlic cloves, minced

1. Lightly brush steaks on both sides with oil and season with salt and pepper. Let stand at room temperature 15 to 30 minutes before grilling.

2. Prepare grill for direct cooking over high heat — 230 to 290 C (450 to 550 F).

3. Combine cheese and basil.

4. Sear steaks on one side over direct high heat, with lid closed, for 3 to 4 minutes. Turn steaks over and generously coat top of each steak with cheese and basil mixture. Close lid and continue grilling until cheese is melted and steaks are cooked to desired doneness, 3 to 4 minutes more for medium rare. Remove from grill and let rest for 3 to 5 minutes.

5. Meanwhile, in a saucepan over medium heat, combine the butter and garlic and heat until butter is melted and garlic is sizzling, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat. Spoon the garlic butter over the steaks and serve them immediately.

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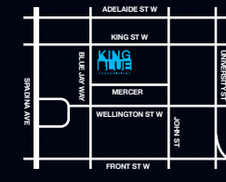

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Condo roundup: revitalization at U of T and a unique food drive

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

It's been a busy month for condo events as the summer season draws near. Gemterra Development has just launched their LOVE Condominiums, a new community-oriented residential complex in Scarborough. LOVE condos will offer a range of suites unparalleled in space and design with floor-to-ceiling windows and hardwood laminate flooring to enhance the open concept design.

"Our objective was to make each suite feel open and airy. Converting traditional hallway space to more livable space gives purchasers much more square footage to play with," says interior designer Paul Maggiacomo of Tanner Hill.

On the waterfront, Tridel, Canada's leading condominium developer, and international real estate firm Hines have just released details of their new condominium development called Aqualina at Bayside Toronto. It's the first residential phase of a 13-acre, mixed-use development called Bayside Toronto. Valued at more than $1.1 billion, Bayside will be the first neighbourhood in downtown Toronto to feature two million sq. ft. of residential, commercial and cultural uses on the water's edge.

The University of Toronto has unveiled plans to transform iconic landmark One Spadina Crescent into the new home of the John H. Daniels faculty of architecture, landscape, and design. The revitalized building project is designed by Nader Tehrani, principal of NADAAA, and his collaborator Katie Faulkner. The University has received an additional personal contribution of $10 million from architect and developer John H. Daniels. Built in 1875, the got hic revival building was originally the home of Knox College.

Earlier this month, teams of professional designers, architects and engineers took part in Toronto's 14th annual Canstruction competition, donating their time, talent and 50,000 cans of canned food to build clever and edible structures. The exhibit, in aid of the Daily Bread food bank, was on public display in Toronto's financial district.

"One of the most unique food drives in the world, Canstruction is a fun, visual way for the architecture and engineering industry to pull together and give back to the communities they build in," says Helen Kabriel, co-chair of Canstruction Toronto.

And this weekend, ELAD Canada will be hosting a groundbreaking event for the new, 50,000 sq. ft. Parkway Forest community centre. It will be a vital part of the master-planned neighbourhood, Emerald City at Don Mills and Sheppard. Amenities will include a gymnasium, running track, YMCA-managed daycare and separate outdoor pool with change rooms.

On hand will be ELAD VP of development, Netanel Ben Or and Ward 33 councillor, Shelley Carroll.

Aqualina condominiums at Bayside Toronto. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One Spadina Crescent, the new home of the John H. Daniels faculty of architecture, landscape, and design. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Legal Matters

Taxes on new properties

I purchased a condo last year and just received a tax bill in the mail a couple of days ago with taxes for 2013 and 2012. I was told by my lawyer when we closed this spring that taxes had been adjusted with the builder and I was not expecting a bill for several thousand dollars; part of which is payable immediately.

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

Taxes on new properties are a tricky proposition. If you are in a condo, it often takes the municipality quite a few months before they have assessed your property value. In the meantime, taxes are still payable.

Builders make an estimate of what the property taxes will be when you take possession of the property on interim occupancy. They should be remitting this amount to the city while you are waiting for your final closing. Then, when you finally transfer title into your name, you still have to wait for the city to assess the property and you get a final bill covering the entire time from when you took possession to the date that they issued the current tax bill. This could result in a fairly substantial tax invoice if your developer has underestimated what the taxes will be, and the taxing authority takes their time assessing the value of the property.

What you need to be aware of is that your lawyer is not responsible for your taxes (just like your accountant is not responsible for your income tax). You need to be proactive and get information from the city to make sure your responsibilities are being met.

All the amenities at Yonge & Eg

Pricing for the 2221 Yonge condos starts from $199,990. SUBMITTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** 2221 Yonge condos
- **Builder.** Tower Hill Development Corporation
- **Location.** Yonge and Eglinton
- **Website.** towerhilldev.com
- **Sizes.** From 386 to 997 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** From $199,990

The project overview

In the spirit of Toronto's modernist heritage, Tower Hill Development Corporation introduces 2221 Yonge Condos on Yonge at Eglinton. From a six-storey podium, the tower will soar a further 50 storeys with beautifully articulated balconies, the finest amenities and a spectacular location.

Location and transit

Located at the iconic intersection of Yonge and Eglinton, it's one of Toronto's most fun neighbourhoods. The TTC is at your doorstep, including the future Eglinton Crosstown LRT. Easy highway access and plenty of downtown bike lanes get you into the core within minutes.

In the neighbourhood

This bustling location boasts tons of dining options, from the Duke of Kent and Grazie to Mark McEwan's North 44. Tons of shopping with the Yonge-Eglinton Centre, Future Shop and Indigo Books. Also, fine schools, libraries, and two movie theatres are nearby.

Building amenities

Including a 56th-floor Sky Lounge and Toronto's finest residential spa: a resort-inspired space that features three swimming pools. There's a fireplace lounge, cabana with barbecue areas and private dining. Also, a movie room, games room, and rooftop lounge.

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Rooftop Surfing

Affordability still a challenge for new home buyers

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta), (facebook.com/bildgta), and bildblogs.ca.

Earlier this week, BILD released the new home sales figures for the month of May, showing a 33 per cent decline in the high-rise market. This amounted to the second-lowest May high-rise sales on record and 22 per cent below the 10-year average.

There are a few factors that explain this decline, such as fewer openings (only three projects launched in May) or seasonal slowdowns, but the most prominent is undoubtedly the lack of affordability in the new homes market in the GTA.

As of May 31, the RealNet New Home Price Index shows the average price of a high-rise home in the GTA to be $431,955. That's a 61 per cent increase since 2005.

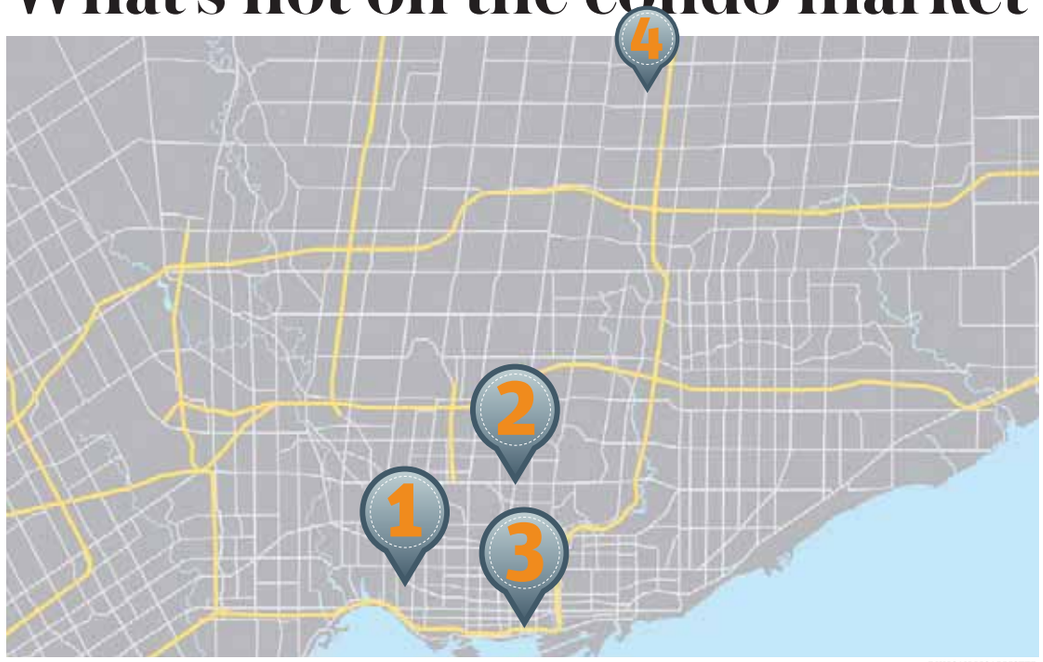
A very considerable portion of that figure is comprised of government fees and charges, which vary by municipality but average out to approximately one-fifth of the cost of a new home today. Some of these charges include Land Transfer Tax, Planning Review Fees, Provincial and Federal HST, as well as several forms of Development Charges — the most significant of the group.

These government fees and charges continue to increase across the region, making it increasingly difficult for our industry to build affordable, safe, complete communities for the 100,000 people and 50,000 jobs that come to the GTA every year. Development Charges have increased between 143 per cent and 357 per cent since 2004 and are still rising.

Just last year, new home buyers paid more than $1 billion in Development Charges to municipalities across the GTA. These fees were put toward the construction of growth-related infrastructure like sewers, roads and transit — something that will be used by all GTA residents, not just new home owners.

It's not fair to put the responsibility of funding new infrastructure squarely on the shoulders of new home purchasers, which is what any additional development charges or government fees will end up doing.

What's hot on the condo market



DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. West end

Organic Barbecue: 383 Sorauren Condos. Don't miss the fun at the sales centre located at 383 Sorauren Ave., Saturday, from 12 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-588-0383 OR VISIT 383SORAUREN.COM

2. Yonge & Eg

Preview: 155 Redpath Condos. Be the first to preview before launch. Presentation centre at 2239 Yonge St., Suite 100. Saturday from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-996-5428 OR VISIT REDPATHCONDOS.COM TO REGISTER

3. Downtown

New Release: Check out Monde condos new boardwalk suites. Presentation centre is located at 291 Lake Shore Blvd. E., Saturday from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-466-8885 OR VISIT MONDECONDOMINIUMS.COM

4. Aurora

Lewis Honey Towns and Semis in Aurora. Visit the sales centre at 140 Lewis Honey Dr., Aurora. Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Going for chiseled, not rugged, good looks

We're seeing more unique, thoughtful takes on home furnishing basics. Say goodbye to 90-degree, square-edged designs and hello to multi-faceted, hand chiseled, angled designs that add casual structure to any room.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Walking Bear Side Table

Take a walk on the wide side with a piece that doubles as a sculpture and side table. $3,430, Avenue-Road.com

Nolmyra chair by Jooyeon Lee

Incredibly light weight (just six pounds) and incorporating bentwood and mesh for a classic Scandinavia design. $39, IKEA.com

Sloped and Slanted Bookcase

Precisely-slanted shelves display your possessions while you appreciate them at a new angle. $1,500, Anthropologie.com

Stainless Steel Chiseled Tumbler

Insulated double-walled stainless cup keep drinks cold through the hot summer days. $23, StarbucksStore.ca

Sculpt table lamp

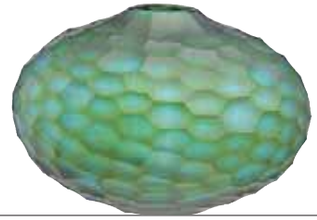
Lightweight fabric wrapped over a frame to create a modern glow. $75, EQ3.com

Warm Silver Leaf Quarry Accent Table

The perfect side table to help modernize a sitting area. $1,935, Barbara Barry for Baker, studioBhome.com

Saba Vase

Jewel tones of blues and green peek through the faceted cutwork of glass. $153, CrateAndBarrel.ca



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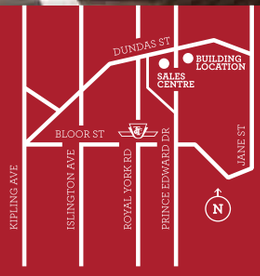

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You're moving on up, but there's no reason you can't do it stress-free

Summer moving season. Two-thirds of moves occur between May 15 and Aug. 31

COURTNEY FOWLER
Metro World News in New York City

Whether you're a student headed back home for summer break or newlyweds signing a lease on your first place, you're going to go through the pains of packing.

Andrea Boccard, vice president of marketing at FlatRate Moving, offers some tips on how to make the process stress-free.

De-clutter

Before boxing things up, Boccard says it's really important to de-clutter. "Even in teeny apartments, we tend to accumulate a lot of stuff," she says. "Spend a couple of days getting rid of the items that you don't need, like takeout menus from the old neighbourhood. Just clearing that space will give you a clear picture of what you're actually packing."

Create "a move book"

The key is to stay organized. Keep the important details of your move together in a book or folder on your computer.

"It should include everything from lists you make, to your insurance and building management information, to estimates you receive," says Boccard.

Know the rules

If moving into an apartment or condo "you should be in close contact with the management for both [your new and old] buildings," says Boccard. She advises reserving freight elevators and making sure your movers have the proper insurance coverage your building may require. "Any hitch in the details can cause problems for the entire moving day."

Pack in advance

"Plan your move more than a month in advance if you can," says Boccard.

Start by packing the items you don't need such as books, CDs or DVDs and out of season clothes.

"We ask people, 'Do you want us to pack for you?' and they say 'No, no I'll pack myself,' but two weeks before [the move] they're nearly in tears because they're unable to do it," she says.

"So being realistic about time and what time you allocate to moving activities is the best advice I can give."

Stay organized

Maintaining organization while your whole life is packed up in boxes may seem nearly impossible, but Boccard says it's a crucial part of the moving process.

The company recommends creating an inventory of your belongings as you pack. Keep important items by your side: Store key items such as your move book, prescriptions, jewelry, toiletries and chargers in a designated bag on move day.

Key tip

What's the biggest moving mistake?

- "Don't leave anything until move day. The planning and organizing process is crucially important. For instance, if you have kids, where are they going to go for the day? There are a lot of those things that you don't want to wait for the movers to show up before you figure out. Really, you don't want to have to make any decisions on move day. You want everything to have been orchestrated so that when you wake up that morning, everything just happens," says Boccard.

Want to make moving day easier? Pack some things you don't use often in advance. HANDOUT

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Housekeeping myth: Borax as a green product for your home

Is the use of Borax still considered to be an environmentally good product to use in our homes?

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Always read the label on cleaning products that use chemicals. ISTOCK IMAGES

Sadly no. I, too, have thought for many years that Borax was a safe, good cleaning product to use in our homes.

However, I have recently learned the following from the David Suzuki Foundation web-site and I quote, "The Georgia Strait Alliance's Toxic Smart Solutions factsheet says 'while borax is also one of the least hazardous domestic cleaning products, it is not without an environmental impact. It contains a higher level of arsenic that most other products (30 parts per million), which is why it's also an effective ant killer.'"

So like anything, always be careful, read the label and do your research before using a chemical product.

First time home buyer? How to save a down payment

Put 20 per cent down.
'The benefits of home ownership make the struggle well worth it'

Buying your first home is one of life's biggest milestones, but for many first time home buyers, getting together the money for a down payment is a huge challenge.

"As a first time buyer, saving for a down payment is no mean feat," says Ron Abraham, president of the Ontario Real Estate Association. "However, the benefits of home ownership make the struggle well worth it. Remember, the more you put down initially, the better; as this will cut into your long term mortgage costs."

Abraham recommends a combination of smart saving, careful budgeting and tapping into government incentives to help get your down payment together and into your first home faster.

Most banks and lenders advise putting 20 per cent down — while this may not be possible for all first time buyers, Abraham suggests getting as close to that number as you can, and offers these tips to help:

Cut back
Remember, small things add up. A recent poll by Visa Canada found that 60 per cent of Canadians eat lunch out at least once a week. At an average cost of $8.80 per meal, eating out three times per week adds up to $20,000 after 10 years!

Organize expenses
Make sure you keep track of your expenses so you can flag issues. Categorize spending so you can see where your money is going — it may motivate you to forego your daily latte.

Borrow from your RRSP
To provide first-time homebuyers with greater access to their RRSP savings to purchase or build a home, the Government of Canada has increased the Home Buyers' Plan withdrawal limit to $25,000 per person for withdrawals made after Jan. 27, 2009.

Apply the First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit
To assist first-time homebuyers, the Government of Canada introduced a $5,000 non-refundable income tax credit on a qualifying home acquired after Jan. 27, 2009. For eligible individuals, the credit provides up to $750 in federal tax relief starting in 2009. NEWS CANADA

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Next goal wins! Cup clubs go the extra mile again

Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews celebrates his second-period goal on Tuukka Rask during Game 4 of the Stanley Cup final on Wednesday night at TD Garden in Boston. Chicago looked poised to even the series 2-2 after jumping out to a pair of two-goal leads in the second period, but the Bruins kept storming back, eventually tying the game 5-5 and sending it to overtime. Three of the four games so far have needed extra time. HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

'I want to go down as one of the greatest'

NBA finals. LeBron welcomes Game 7 pressure in leading Heat to title repeat

Heat forward LeBron James. WILFREDO LEE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James could not sleep after Game 6.

Imagine, then, how frayed his emotions will be going into Game 7 on Thursday night.

So much is at stake. Legacies, for so many players, James included. The championship. Whether the season was a success or a bust. How he will be portrayed over the next few months. How history will judge a Miami Heat team that won 27 straight games in one stretch, 66 games in the regular season.

Although the Heat will insist otherwise, the common belief is that it all hinges on James. And the four-time NBA MVP wouldn't have it any other way.

"I want to go down as one of the greatest. I want our team to go down as one of the greatest teams. And we have an opportunity to do that," James said. "Hasn't been many teams to win back-to-back championships. It's so hard. It's the hardest thing. I said last year it was the hardest thing I've ever done, winning my first. Last year don't even come close to what we've gone through in this post-season and in these finals." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Uncharted ground for Spurs

"We've never been through a situation like this."

San Antonio guard Manu Ginobili on bouncing back from Tuesday night's Game 6 loss. The Spurs were up 13 points early in the fourth quarter and led 94-89 with 21 seconds to go.

NBA

New Raptors GM keeping Casey

Dwane Casey will remain the Toronto Raptors head coach, holding onto his job amid a major front-office overhaul.

There had been some question regarding Casey's future in Toronto following the hiring of new GM Masai Ujiri. But Ujiri said Wednesday that Casey will be back with the Raptors for the upcoming season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dwane Casey GETTY IMAGES

Tennis

Milos misfires on eve of Wimbledon

It wasn't quite the Wimbledon warmup Canadian Milos Raonic was hoping for.

The top seed from Thornhill dropped his second-round match Wednesday at the Eastbourne grass-court tournament, falling 6-2, 7-6 (7) to Ivan Dodig. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Great payday

$500K

Shawn Chaulk, a construction contractor from Fort McMurray, Alta., has received more than $500,000 for a collection of jerseys, skates, helmets, gloves and pucks used by Wayne Gretzky. About $350,000 came from one item alone — the jersey Gretzky wore in the 1986-87 season when he scored his 500th NHL goal and won the Stanley Cup with the Edmonton Oilers.

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Up and Adam: Lind lifts Jays to sweep of Rockies

MLB. First baseman's 3-run blast sends T.O. to its 8th win in a row

On Wednesday

Blue Jays	Rockies
5	2

Adam Lind hit a three-run homer as the Toronto Blue Jays defeated Colorado 5-2 on Wednesday night to complete a three-game sweep of the Rockies and extend their winning streak to a season-high eight games.

Mark Buehrle pitched five effective innings to even his record at 4-4 as the Blue Jays (35-36) inched closer to the .500 mark. Four Toronto relievers held the Rockies without a run the rest of the way, with Casey Janssen working the ninth for his 16th save.

Toronto is enjoying its longest winning streak since winning 10 in a row almost five years ago. The eight-gamer is the longest active streak in the major leagues.

Jose Bautista got things started in the opening frame when he reached on a throwing error by third baseman Nolan Arenado. The Toronto slugger moved to second on a single by Edwin Encarnacion and Lind followed by launching a 2-1 pitch over the right-field wall for his ninth homer of the year.

The Toronto first baseman has had at least one hit in 19 of his last 22 starts and is batting a stellar .340 on the season.

Buehrle was steady but not spectacular, managing to keep Colorado from a big inning. He gave up eight hits, a walk and two earned runs over five innings while striking out four.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Blue Jays' Adam Lind rounds the bases after hitting a three-run home run off of Rockies pitcher Juan Nicasio on Wednesday night. The Jays completed a three-game sweep with a 5-2 win. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Believe it or not

Something's changing in T.O

CATHAL KELLY
Special to Metro

Going into Wednesday night's game against the Rockies, the Jays had won seven straight, and 10 of 12. During that stretch, they'd chopped their wild-card deficit from nine games back to 4.5.

But is it time to believe? This time last year, the Jays were two games over .500 and 3.5 games out of the wild card. And only a guy who cuts his Tang with MDMA would have told you he believed then.

What's changed? The team, obviously. But I'd suggest we have as well.

I doubt anyone would've told you a month ago the Jays had a chance at the playoffs, but we did all feel they wouldn't embarrass us.

We expected some sort of fight-back. We're getting it.

So do we believe?

No, not yet. But having kept steady this long, we're willing to be convinced.

Go to metronews.ca for more of Cathal Kelly's take the Jays.

MLB. Davis crushes pair as O's dispose of Tigers

Chris Davis sent a pitch to opposite field over the left-field fence and pulled another one deep into the right-field seats.

His day gave him a major-league leading 26 homers and helped the Baltimore Orioles beat the Detroit Tigers 13-3 Wednesday.

Davis, who had a two-run homer in Baltimore's six-run fourth inning, hit his second two-run shot in the ninth off embattled reliever Jose Valverde.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Your reaction when confronted by an obstacle is to kick it out of the way, but you must be more subtle today. You should also try to remember that other people's feelings are not always as robust as your own.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The best way to deal with a problem is pretend it doesn't exist. The more you focus on negative things, the more likely it is they will keep going wrong. "Positive thinking" is more than just a slogan.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There are far too many distractions in your life and if you want to move ahead in areas that are really important to you then you need to cut back quite ruthlessly on activities.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The Sun moves into your sign tomorrow and a new solar year begins, making this the ideal day to look back over the past 12 months. Whatever mistakes you made, forgive yourself and move on.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may appear open and outgoing to the world at large but you have secrets like everyone else. One secret is likely to be revealed over the next few days. Pretend you don't care.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you have not finished a project of some time by now, it might be best to forget about it. That is the message of the stars today and while it may sound a bit negative, it's not.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
When the Sun crosses the career angle of your chart tomorrow, you must turn your attention to your reputation. Could it be better? Yes, it could. You must identify how.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
In recent weeks it seems you have been cruising on autopilot but that will change with the Sun's change of signs tomorrow. Suddenly you will be more alive again. Suddenly you will be back in control.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Try to get your point of view across in a calm way. It will help if you are clear in what exactly it is you want to say. Make that your priority today then speak up tomorrow.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Try to help others because the good deeds you do for them now will come back to you over the next few weeks. Above all, remember you can't always have things your own way. You have to give ground.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There is no need to apologize for things that are not your responsibility. Someone you live or work with will try to shift the blame for a failure of some kind on to you today but you must have none of it.

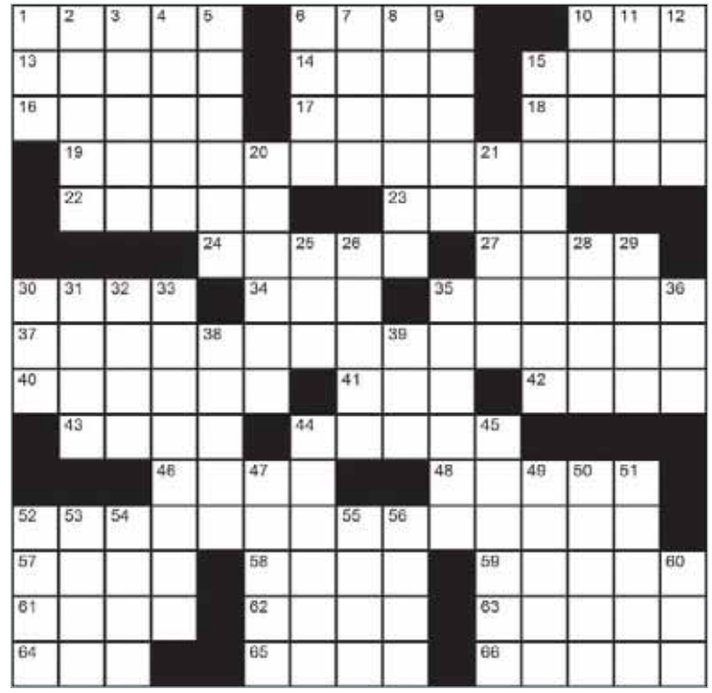
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The worries of the past few weeks will begin to fade today and once the Sun moves into the most dynamic area of your chart tomorrow they should disappear altogether.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

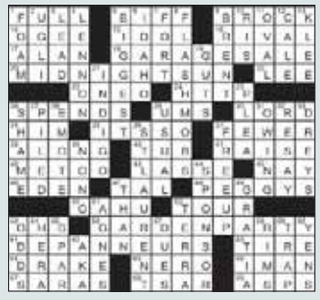
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Group ruled by Odin
6. Labyrinth
10. Eye logo TV network
13. Apt
14. "Jeopardy!" host Mr. Trebek
15. Aching
16. Pub serving sizes
17. Type of tide
18. Applaud
19. Jumbo, the world famous __ __, died in 1885 when hit by a train in St. Thomas, Ontario. There is a life-size statue there in his honour.
22. Thoroughly search or examine
23. Assortment
24. Ancient land
27. Some soil
30. Q-Tip, for one
34. Shoe width size
35. Rotten
37. DND = Department of __ __
40. "Let's __ a day.": 2 wds.
41. Unit of weight
42. Film holder
43. Ottawa's Parliament __
44. Tie type
46. Genuine
48. Dock
52. It's the 'kind the drugstores sell' in Gordon Lightfoot's song: 2 wds.
57. Alanis Morissette's "__ Really Want"
58. Drifting
59. Become a green-to-yellow banana
61. Earring kind
62. Sketch, as in comedy
63. Like hosiery or mascara, maybe: 2 wds.
64. Clothe
65. Healthy
66. Zzzzz ...loudly!

Down
1. iPhone download
2. Actor Mr. Bana's
3. Kind of boom
4. Brief beginning
5. Save
6. Provides with staff
7. Sailor's sheltered side
8. Extremist
9. Officially kick out
10. Pop
11. Certain cereal
12. __-Iles, QC
15. Bluenose II, for one
20. "Hurry!" meaning
21. Rice dish
25. Thumbs-up vote
26. Pounds, as hail
28. Dermatologist patient's concern
29. House critters
30. Canadian engineering group, _ _ _-Lavalin
31. Cr-yying sound
32. Mythical Hun king
33. Northwest Coast artist, b.1920 - d.1998, whose work includes the Haida creation myth sculpture Raven and the First Men: 2 wds.
35. Fame
36. Benicio Toro link
38. Wayne Gretzky, once
39. Grumpy's co-worker
44. Yukon neighbour
45. "The Path of __ (Terms)" by Sarah McLachlan
47. Embarrass
49. Airplane: French
50. Artwork like the original, informally
51. Flower: French
52. Former
53. Choir voice
54. Promote
55. Put a 'roof' on a room
56. Pippa's royal sister
60. SSW's opposite direction

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	2				6	3	9	
		7					4	6
				9		8		5
			7	1				9
	4						2	
8				2	9			
9		4		3				
7	5					6		
	3	2	8				1	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	4	5	7	6	3	9	8	2
2	6	8	5	9	4	1	3	7
3	9	7	8	1	2	4	6	5
6	5	1	2	7	9	8	4	3
4	3	9	6	5	8	2	7	1
8	7	2	3	4	1	6	5	9
9	2	3	4	8	7	5	1	6
5	1	4	9	3	6	7	2	8
7	8	6	1	2	5	3	9	4

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